

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN-NORTH BROOKLYN
INCLUDING CARROLL GARDENS, COBBLE HILL, BOERUM HILL, FORT GREENE, CLINTON HILL, DUMBO, WILLIAMSBURG AND GREENPOINT

AWP/18 pages • Vol. 31, No. 15 • **Saturday, April 12, 2008** • **FREE**

Sen. John McCain, with Bay Ridge Republican state Sen. Marty Golden in tow, talks with reporters during a campaign swing in Brooklyn on Thursday afternoon. For the story, **see page 15.**

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Atlantic Yards foe (and Brooklyn Museum member) Clem Labine protests

See **GEHRY** on page 1

This Civil War-era warehouse at the foot of Beard Street in Red Hook will soon house a winery. No, silly, the grapes won't be grown there, but they will be crushed, fermented, aged and bottled there.

"New York is my most important wine market. Right now, sommeliers have to go on a plane, so it's wonderful that [Rebel Hook] is accessible to the city."



Rated Best Sofas
New York Magazine's
2007 Best of New York

American Leather
Atlantico De La Espada
BDI
Blue Dot
Calligaris
DellaRobbia
Ekornes
Fontana Arte
Gus
Maria Yee
Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams
Robert Abbey
Surya Rugs
TEMA
Thayer Coggin



shoprico.com

RETAIL • TRADE • DESIGN
MILO BAUGHMAN AND GUY HILL FOR THAYER COGIN

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Compiled by Mariel Cohn

Yoga's serenity in Bklyn Heights

In the heart of Brooklyn Heights, **Yoga People's** serene studio offers classes and workshops to students with all body types and levels of ability. With seasoned and dedicated instructors, Yoga People provides its students with an intimate and compassionate yoga community.

Take part in their April Spring Cleanse workshop, "Root To Rise: The Power Of Organic Energy," a two-day event — on Saturday, April 26, from 2 to 4 pm, and Sunday, April 27, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm — taught by the studio's most popular instructors.

"Root To Rise" is designed to embody the rhythm of Spring, and to charge, cleanse, and rejuvenate the body and mind of each student. All types of students, whether beginner or advanced are welcome to attend, at a \$55 per session or \$110 for both.

Yoga People, 157 Remsen St., between Court and Clinton streets, Call (718) 522-9642, or visit www.yoga-people.com



Spring Cleaning for the mind and body.

NYKidsClub

Friday April 11th marks the Grand Opening of the **New York Kids Club**. The celebration will include exciting class demonstrations and activities for children 6 months to 12 years, in state-of-the-art gym and classroom facilities. The event, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm, will include complimentary



NYKidsClub founder Pam Wolf and her children: Joshua, Jessica, Jared and Jenna.

wine, beer, hors d'oeuvres, and treats for the kids and feature a presentation by the Rock-a-Baby band.

Reservations are a must. Call (718) 238-0800. **New York Kids Club**, 182 Henry St., second floor, at the corner of Montague and Henry streets, (entrance on Henry). Open Call (718) 228-0800, or Visit www.nykidsclub.com

Still Hip

Still Hip is a gathering place for gently used children's clothing, toys, gear, books, as well as for kid's music and movement classes, and family events, a funky resale shop that is too fabulous to resist.

You'll find clothing by zutano, dogwood, small paul and mini maternity, as well as carriers, playmats and booster seats.

The store welcomes friendly, environmentally conscience people who hang out and chat about what's going on in the neighborhood (while getting a good deal on items at the same time).



Still Hip in Clinton Hill.

Still Hip is accepting Spring and Summer items in gently used to new conditions. Drop off hours are 2 to 5 pm every Thursday, and with advance notice, you may make a drop off on Sunday 11 to 6, (718) 398-0080. Visa and Mastercard are accepted. Visit www.stillhipbrooklyn.com, or email monst@stillhipbrooklyn.com.

Harbor Fitness

Harbor Fitness' two locations, in Park Slope and Bay Ridge, have the latest cardio and strength training equipment individual workouts and a variety of classes (from kickboxing and spinning, to yoga and pilates). Open 24 hours a day during the week, you're guaranteed to have a good time exercising at either location.

Harbor Fitness also offers free childcare, to ensure you can focus on your workout to the fullest.

Harbor Fitness is also very socially conscious. In March they raised over \$3000 for HeartShare Human Services' Autism Programs. Neighbors gathered in the effort to find and raise awareness of Autism, and literally put their sweat into the cause by taking one of many fitness classes.

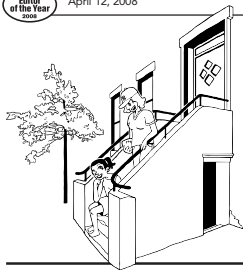
Harbor Fitness, is located at 9215 Fourth Ave. (near 92nd Street) in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-9400, and at 191 15th St. off Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-6200. Visa, Mastercard and American Express are accepted. For more info, visit www.harborfitness.com.



BrooklynShops

The Brooklyn Paper's Guide to Local Services & Merchants

Art Gallery Brooklyn Artisans Gallery 221A Court St. (718) 330-0343	Computer Mac Support Store Brooklyn's first Apple authorized repair shop is up & running. Plus for the latest software, classes, News & web products. 188 Seventh St. (718) 312-8341	Health Clubs HARBOR Over 100 group fitness classes (yoga, pilates, spinning, cardio, bootcamp, heart rate sculpting, salsa dance...) 191 15th St. (718) 965-6200	Medical Services nym NEW YORK NETHOODS HOSPITAL 506 56th St. (718) 499-CARE	Real Estate Brooklyn Bridge 211 Court St. (718) 625-3700	Shipping ups UPS Store (Montague St.) Mailboxes, packing and moving supplies, printing and shipping. Open 7 days - view.usps.com 83 Montague St. (718) 968-0900
Auto Care Park West Auto Body 576 Union Street (718) 875-2495 Vegas Auto Spa Brooklyn's highest quality car wash 555 Seventh Ave. (718) 768-9274	Crafts the artful PLACE The Artful Place 171 Fifth Avenue (718) 399-8199	Health Food Perelandra Natural Foods 175 Remsen St. (718) 855-6068	Restaurants Buffalo Wild Wings 139 Flatbush Ave. (718) 943-9453	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Baby Clothing Olá Baby 315 Court Street (718) 482-1978	Fencing Brooklyn Fencing Center 82 Fourth Street (718) 522-5822	Home Décor BoConcept Urban Design 78 Front St. (718) 415-5652	Restaurants Preferred Health Partners 10 locations throughout Brooklyn 139 Flatbush Ave. (718) 943-9453	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Balloons Unique Balloons 8402 18th Ave. (718) 337-8005	Florist Floral Heights 107-109 Atlantic Ave. (718) 625-2066	Kitchenology, LLC creating a perfect kitchen 4212 Third Ave. (718) 965-4900	Restaurants Slope Dental Ronald Trichman, DDS 357 Seventh Ave. (718) 768-1111	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Books BMS Bookmark Shoppe The business's only for all your reading needs 6909 11th Ave. (718) 685-3688	Framing Brooklyn Frame Works 142 Fifth Ave. (718) 399-6813	LAMP WAREHOUSE NYC's largest lighting showroom has been the source of Brooklyn's top designers for 30 years. 1073 39th St. (718) 436-2207	Restaurants Jeff C. Strachan, DDS Dentistry 189 Montague St. (718) 783-0504	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Bowling Maple Lanes 1570 60th St. (718) 331-8000	Gardening Chelsea Garden Center 444 Van Brunt St. (212) 727-3434	Housewares American Housewares Full line of quality products at 85 Court St. 85 Court St. (718) 243-0844	Restaurants University Orthopedic Assoc 33 Prospect Park W. (718) 270-5045	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Car Service Court Express 534 Court Street (718) 237-8888	Golfing Seventh Ave. Framing Custom framing for all your art, fine, ready-made paintings, posters, prints of art supplies. 318 7th Ave. (718) 632-0555	Jewelry Casale Jewelers 306 Court St. (718) 632-6344	Restaurants Brooklyn Heights Pavilion 70 Henry St. (718) 598-5095	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Cell Phones Cobble Hill Wireless 485 Henry St. (718) 243-6904	Gifts Bob & Judi's Collectibles 217 Fifth Ave. (718) 338-5770	Jewels by Sabnick Brooklyn's most trusted jeweler. 1871 State St. (718) 632-1421	Restaurants Clinton Nails 400 Fifth Ave. (718) 309-3103	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Chocolate Phant Chocolate 2917 Avenue R (718) 375-1271	Hardware Clinton Hill Hardware 452 Myrtle Ave. (718) 221-1827	Lodging Comfort Inn 3278 Emmons Ave. (718) 368-3334	Restaurants Perfectly Polished 88 Atlantic Ave. (347) 844-9034	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Cleaners Bridgestone Cleaners 189 Front Street (718) 222-9958	Hair Care Allegria Hair Salon 335 Adams St. (718) 875-5500	Martial Arts mission martial arts academy 517 Henry St. (718) 585-6870	Restaurants Le Petit Marche French Bistro 46 Henry St. (718) 858-9605	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Clothing Luce on the Hook 281 Van Brunt St. (718) 852-1345	Health Clubs Eastern Athletic Full service, state of the art facility offering weight rooms, group conditioning, free weights, cardio, spinning. 43 Clark St. (718) 625-0500	Meats Los Palamos Meat Market 182 Smith St. (718) 955-5941	Restaurants International Restaurant 4408 Fifth Ave. (718) 438-2009	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Coffee PANICO 309 Court Street (718) 875-5403	Home Décor BoConcept Urban Design 78 Front St. (718) 415-5652	Medical Services Izabella Belenky, DDS Dentistry 10 Plaza St. (718) 622-8020	Restaurants Laura's Bistro 1235 Prospect Ave. (718) 438-3715	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Crocheting BrooklynPaper.com	Housewares American Housewares Full line of quality products at 85 Court St. 85 Court St. (718) 243-0844	Movies Theater Brooklyn Heights Pavilion 70 Henry St. (718) 598-5095	Restaurants University Orthopedic Assoc 33 Prospect Park W. (718) 270-5045	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Dance BrooklynPaper.com	Jewelry Casale Jewelers 306 Court St. (718) 632-6344	Movie Theater Brooklyn Heights Pavilion 70 Henry St. (718) 598-5095	Restaurants Jeff C. Strachan, DDS Dentistry 189 Montague St. (718) 783-0504	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
Dance BrooklynPaper.com	Jewels by Sabnick Brooklyn's most trusted jeweler. 1871 State St. (718) 632-1421	Movie Theater Brooklyn Heights Pavilion 70 Henry St. (718) 598-5095	Restaurants Clinton Nails 400 Fifth Ave. (718) 309-3103	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
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Dance BrooklynPaper.com	Martial Arts mission martial arts academy 517 Henry St. (718) 585-6870	Movie Theater Brooklyn Heights Pavilion 70 Henry St. (718) 598-5095	Restaurants Le Petit Marche French Bistro 46 Henry St. (718) 858-9605	Spa & Salon body by brooklyn Body by Brooklyn 275 Park Ave. (718) 923-9400	
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THE STORM

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

FORT GREENE



By Spike Lee
The Brooklyn Paper
The Brooklyn Paper
The Brooklyn Paper

Spike Lee has moved out of his converted firehouse on DeKalb Avenue and into a building he owns around the corner on South Elliot Place. The culprit? Rising rents.

IT'S A WRAP!

Filmmaker Spike Lee's Fort Greene HQ for sale

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

You know development is out of control when even acclaimed local filmmaker Spike Lee feels squeezed by rising rents.

The director who sprung to nationwide attention 20 years ago with the seminal film, "Do the Right Thing," fell victim to skyrocketing rent in Fort Greene, compelling him to vacate the converted DeKalb Avenue firehouse he had rented for his production company since the mid-1980s.

"Got priced out, the rent raise was insane," Lee told The Brooklyn Paper.

Instead of being bamboozled by his landlord, the auteur moved his 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks to a more "better" homestead around the corner on South Elliot Place.

The "For Sale" sign at 124 DeKalb Ave. was reminiscent of the 1997 shuttering of Spike's Joint, a store selling Lee film memorabilia, that fanned neighborhood fears that "Mrs. Blackmon" had checked out of Kings County.

The director, who gave Brooklyn the starring role in films like "Crooklyn" and "Jungle Fever," affirmed that he still had a working and personal relationship with the borough.

"Still in Fort Greene," said Lee, obviously referring only to his film company, as he now lives in Manhattan (oy!). "Forty Acres moved to a building we already owned" on South Elliot Place between Lafayette and DeKalb.

Lee might be gone from the three-story building overlooking Fort Greene Park, but his presence there won't be easily forgotten by its next inhabitants. CityHabitus, the broker selling the property for \$6 million, advertises that "it has been leased to a celebrated film maker for the past 22 years as a production studio."

There are two duplex residential units in the building.

GOWANUS

Canal is new hotel craze

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Yet another would-be hotel is set to rise at what has turned out to be very fertile soil around the messy Gowanus Canal.

Four hotels are being built or are already planned for a six-block area around the old industrial slice — in addition to the Hotel Le Bleu, Comfort Inn and Holiday Inn Express that already receive guests nearby.

"They're clustering in that area because it's between the restaurant rows of Smith Street and Fifth Avenue and it's close to Downtown," said Carolyn Greer, director of public events, special projects and tourism for Borough President Markowitz.

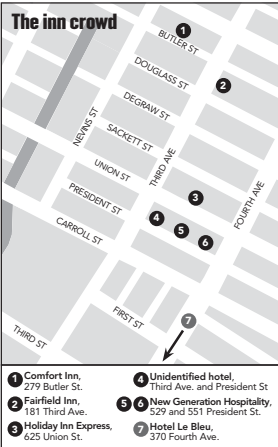
Greer added that subway service on Fourth Avenue makes it a logical location, too.

The most recent addition to the mushrooming tourist zone will be a 124-room Fairfield Inn, part of the Marriott chain, slated for Third Avenue, according to Brownstoner, a real-estate Web site.

The very existence of a "Gowanus Canal Hotel District" is mostly due to the low prices for old industrial land — land on which hotels, unlike other residential units, can be built without costly zoning changes.

On the other hand, the district is still largely industrial, which disorients some tourists who don't feel connected to the picturesque and thriving brownstone communities to their east and west.

"We got out of the subway and I was wondering if we were in the wrong place, because I have a friend that told me Park Slope was really nice and upscale," said Mike Powell, staying at the Holiday Inn Express on Union Street between Third and Fourth avenues.



1 Comfort Inn, 279 Butler St.
2 Fairfield Inn, 181 Third Ave.
3 Holiday Inn Express, 625 Union St.
4 Unidentified hotel, Third Ave. and President St.
5 New Generation Hospitality, 529 and 551 President St.
6 Hotel Le Bleu, 370 Fourth Ave.

A similar scene played out at Hotel Le Bleu, its 48 luxurious rooms of high-thread-count linens and flat-screen televisions are on a block of Fourth Avenue shared by a taxi garage, dialysis clinic and a Pep Boys auto parts store and repair center.

"We were sort of surprised when we got here," said Shelley McCabe, who was in town to visit her parents. "You go up a couple avenues and it's so nice up there. Down here, it's a little bit strip mall-ish."

out the notion that the market could become glutted, driving down prices.

"It's competitive, yes, but it's a draw," said Robert Gaeta, general manager of the sleek Hotel Le Bleu, who reports that business is "brisk," with occupancy averaging more than 80 percent in recent weeks.

"The more that open, the more people that come. The competition raises everybody up," Gaeta said, comparing the hotels to the seemingly boundless number of restaurants that have opened on Fifth Avenue.

That competition has oddly hit an absolute equilibrium in room prices, if only temporarily. Last week, travelers could check into Le Bleu for \$235 a night and the Holiday Inn for \$239. Both hotels said prices fluctuate day-to-day and can quickly hit \$350 per night.

Part of the reason Le Bleu's prices are not higher is because the hotel is a work in progress. It opened in November, but it will be several more weeks before its eighth-floor restaurant is ready for diners and even longer before revelers can party in the hotly anticipated rooftop bar.

Developers say Brooklyn is ripe for hotel projects as the borough becomes more of a tourist destination in and of itself, and also, as an affordable option to Manhattan rates.

"It's the right time to build," said Raj Bhagat, of New Generation Hospitality, which is planning to raze two warehouses on President Street to make room for a "mid-brand hotel" and one affiliated with the Marriott, itself one of the borough's great hotel success stories. After opening in 1998, the 376-room inn soon outgrew its capacity and opened a 280-room annex in 2006.

with Emily Levin

BKLYN HEIGHTS



Gristedes pharmacy reopens after fire

for The Brooklyn Paper

The word is that the Almighty created the heavens and the earth in six days — but an even greater miracle has occurred on Henry Street: the pharmacy at the Gristedes supermarket re-opened just three days after an electrical fire almost completely destroyed the store.

Makeshift shelving holds drinks and some staples — pasta, crackers and energy bars — from the supermarket, which is now separated from the pharmacy by a thin plastic curtain that failed to muffle the sounds of the reconstruction already underway.

"It was important for us to get some part of the store re-opened," said one employee, who didn't want his name used. "A lot of people around here depend on us, so we want to work as hard as we can for them until the store is back on its feet."

The April 1 blaze started in the deli department and caused an estimated \$5 million in damage. It is unclear when the rest of the store will re-open, but then again, by miracles never cease.

— Emily Levin

CARROLL GARDENS

Hung jury on plans for Court St.

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

A developer's plan to build one of the tallest buildings on Court Street in Carroll Gardens was assailed last week for clashing with the neighborhood's low-rise architectural landscape.

Months of anxiety by citizens and elected officials culminated last Thursday over



A rendering of a proposed seven-story building on Court Street that was put out by a community group last week (left) bears little resemblance to the actual rendering that was finally unveiled by the Claret Group this week (right).

29-unit, seven-story building of gray cement on the bottom floors and glass walls on the upper levels that will replace the dockworkers' union building, itself an anomalous bunker in the otherwise brownstone-heavy area.

Residents derided the renderings. "[The longshoremen's building] is one of my least-favorite buildings on Court Street, but this was a little disappointing," said Gary Kelly. "It feels a little cold and industrial."

Another resident was more blunt. "It looks like a mausoleum," said Katia Kelly.

Claret officials said new zoning restrictions a distant possibility. Claret showed renderings for a

ground-floor retail to add life to the street. And Claret Vice President Dan Hollander promised not to sign a lease with a fast food joint.

The project, which would be erected by the end of 2009, also calls for townhouse-style units on the side streets. These dwellings would be the same height as their neighbors' and have front gardens, too, like traditional Carroll Gardens rowhouses.

Some called them "bland," but others gave the ultimate compliment. "That looks like Carroll Gardens," said one man.

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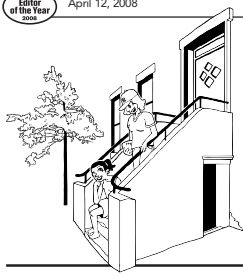
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Homework havoc at home

It's a typical scenario — begging, pleading, yelling. The bedroom door slams, everyone is crying. A big fight between Mom and Dad? No, just homework.

"The weekends are just a blur of homework. We've been working from dawn to dusk. We have to make a schedule just to get it all done. She's only in the sixth grade!" says Isabel Hill, a Park Slope mother and filmmaker whose daughter, Anna, attends Poly Prep Country Day School.

If I wasn't also the parent of a school-age child, I might have said to Hill — hey, what do you mean we — isn't this her homework? But, sadly, I know better. When homework reaches those kinds of levels, there is just no way for parents to stay uninvolved. For one thing, kindergartners and first-graders, never mind sixth-graders, just can't budget their time without help. And even kids who happen to be good at it are often wiped out after a full day at school.

Councilmember Peter Vallone Jr. feels the same way. Last fall, Vallone called for a maximum of 10 minutes per grade per night through the eighth grade, with one night off per week. So, in the case of a sixth-grader, that would be one hour, opening up a world of possibilities.

Anna could go back to her music, just for starters — or have pizza with a friend, or invent stuff or play, which is how kids learn. And Vallone, who has two daughters himself, says that families could have more time together, and children would have time to get some badly needed exercise.

Mayor Bloomberg has not been too sympathetic to Vallone's idea, but Hizzoner should do his own homework: No studies prove that doing more homework equals doing better in school, according to Sarah Bennett and Nancy Kalish, the two Slopes-based writers of "The Case Against Homework: How Homework is Hurting Our Children and What We Can Do About It."

In Finland, teenagers score higher than any other country in the world on tests, yet no more than 30 minutes per night of homework is assigned.

Proponents of homework say that homework also teaches kids responsibility and time management. But some parents are unconvinced.

"I'd rather my kids learn responsibility from chores," says Park Slope mom, Caroline Thaler, who has one child at PS 321 and two at Poly Prep. "I can't give them much responsibility around the house now because they have way too much homework to do."

Wendy Ponté is a freelance writer who lives in Park Slope.

PS... I LOVE YOU



Wendy Ponté

PARK SLOPE

The Gowanus hotel craze

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Yet another would-be hotel is set to rise in what has turned out to be very fertile soil around the messy Gowanus Canal.

Four hotels are being built or are already planned for a six-block area around the old industrial sluice — in addition to the Hotel LeBlou, Comfort Inn and Holiday Inn Express that already receive guests nearby.

"They're clustering in that area because it's between the restaurant rows of Smith Street and Fifth Avenue and it's close to Downtown," said Carolyn Greer, director of public events, special projects and tourism for Borough President Markowitz.

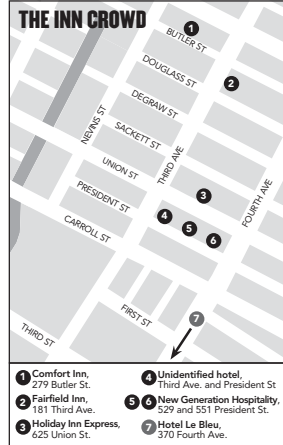
Greer added that subway service on Fourth Avenue makes it a logical location, too.

The most-recent addition to the mushrooming tourist zone will be a 124-room Fairfield Inn, part of the Marriott chain, slated for Third Avenue, according to Brownstone, a real-estate Web site.

The very existence of a "Gowanus Canal Hotel District" is mostly due to the low prices for old industrial land — land on which hotels, unlike other residential units, can be built without costly zoning changes.

On the other hand, the district is still largely industrial, which disorients some tourists who don't feel connected to the picturesque and thriving brownstone communities to their east and west.

"We got out of the subway and I was wondering if we were in the wrong place, because I have a friend that told me Park Slope was really nice



and upscale," said Mike Powell, staying at the Holiday Inn Express on Union Street between Third and Fourth avenues.

A similar scene played out at Hotel LeBlou. Its 48 luxurious rooms of high-thread-count linens and flat-screen televisions are on a block of Fourth Avenue shared by a taxi garage, dialysis clinic and a Pop Boys auto parts store and repair center.

"We were sort of surprised

a bite to eat, pick up the paper and buy your everyday sundries," said Carl Hunt, president of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

In spite of the growth on the horizon, innkeepers have ruled out the notion that the market could become glutted, driving down prices.

"It's competitive, yes, but it's a draw," said Robert Gaeta, general manager of the sleek Hotel LeBlou, who reports that business is "brisk," with occupancy averaging more than 80 percent in recent weeks.

"The more that open, the more people that come. The competition raises everybody up," Gaeta said, comparing the hotels to the seemingly boundless number of restaurants that have opened on Fifth Avenue.

That competition has oddly hit an absolute equilibrium in room prices, if only temporarily.

Last week, travelers could check into LeBlou for \$235 a night and the Holiday Inn for \$239. Both hotels said prices fluctuate day-to-day and can quickly hit \$350 per night.

Developers say Brooklyn is ripe for hotel projects as the borough becomes more of a tourist destination in and of itself, and also, as an affordable option to Manhattan rates.

"It's the right time to build," said Raj Bhugal, of New Generation Hospitality, which is planning to raise two warehouses on President Street to make room for a "mid-brand hotel" and one affiliated with the Marriott, itself one of the borough's great hotel success stories. After opening in 1998, the 376-room inn soon outgrew its capacity and opened a 280-room annex in 2006.

— with Emily Lavlin

BAY RIDGE



Showing their medal

Bay Ridge honored its cops last week, paying special tribute to 51 officers who performed outstanding police work in 2007. More than 150 people thanked the top cops from the 68th Precinct at "Medal Day" on April 3 in the auditorium of the Poly Prep Country Day School. "It's for the cops

themselves," said Deputy Inspector Eric Rodriguez, commanding officer. "It's something we do every year to acknowledge the great work that our police officers do, day in and day out." Honorees included officers Vito Viola and Lance Sigman, who delivered a baby.

— Ben Muessig

BENSONHURST

Big box for Shore Pkwy

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

A discount wholesaler might give Costco some competition when it opens along Shore Parkway in Bensonhurst.

BJ's Wholesale Club, a big-box store that offers members discounted prices on brand-name goods, signed a 20-year lease at the site of a bus depot near the former Nellie Bly Amusement Park and Dreier-Offerman Park.

But before developer Joe Sitt can put a shovel in the ground, he'll need a zoning



This bus depot on Shore Parkway could become a BJ's Wholesale Club.

change from the city — and that may not be easy, given that the same city government is battling him over his \$1.5-billion plan to transform Coney Island into a 24-7-365 amusement Vegas-style Xanadu.

Bensonhurst officials, however, think the retail project won't get stuck in the sand.

"They're presenting a good plan," said Rob Hart, spokesman for Councilman Domenic Recchia (D-Bensonhurst). "This project is one thing and the Coney Island project is another."

Sitt hopes to make fast work on a \$100-million development on the site he bought for \$10 million in 2005. Construction on BJ's could start next year — pending that rezoning.

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Banks robbed two days apart

The Brooklyn Paper

84th Precinct

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO

Boerum Hill-Downtown

Thieves plundered two

Downtown Brooklyn banks in

separate incidents last week.

In the first case, a man held

up a Fulton Street bank on

April 2 at around 2:15 p.m.

The thief told the bank teller

in the Fulton Mall to "hurry

up," and passed a note that said,

"Stacks of hundreds, stacks of

fifties. No alarm. Don't be a

hero."

The employee complied,

giving the bundle \$1,320, which

he calmly stashed in his pocket.

The second robbery occur-

red on Montague Street near

Court Street on April 4.

This robber also passed a

note that said, "Don't signal

POLICE BLOTTER

anyone. Put \$5,000 in an enve-

lope and keep your hands

where I can see them." The

teller protested, "I don't have

that kind of money." She did,

however give him \$400 — and

a dye-pack.

Open door

A woman's unlocked Dean

Street apartment was burgled on

April 3.

The 46-year-old resident said

she was not home from 11:30 a.m.

to 12:30 p.m. during which time

someone took a laptop, Playsta-

tion and Xbox from the abode,

which is between Smith Street

and Boerum Place.

A neighbor said she saw a

man in the apartment during

that time, but assumed it was a

family member.

Psycho moment

A man joked while tak-

ing a shower at his Atlantic Av-

enue apartment on March 28.

He cracked open his window

before going to the bathroom to

freshen up at 11:30 a.m. But

when he returned, the portal

was wide open and his digital

camera and \$55 were missing

from his residence, which is be-

tween Bond and Nevins streets.

— **Mike McLaughlin**

78th Precinct

Park Slope

Beet down

A customer at a trendy Thai

restaurant on Seventh Avenue

had her purse stolen off the

back of her chair when she

wasn't looking on April 4.

Cops said the thief entered

the restaurant, which is be-

tween 10th and 11th streets, at

around 8 p.m. and grabbed the

27-year-old woman's purse.

In addition to her iPod and

\$25, he got a credit card that he

promptly used at a gas station

on Fourth Avenue and Union

Street, cops said.

Bad help

A worker got so angry at his

boss that he hurled a rock and

an electric drill battery at his

employer on April 3.

According to police, the em-

ployee, 29, got into a "dispute

about money" at around 7:45

p.m. in front of a house on Sev-

enth Street between Eighth Av-

enue and Prospect Park West.

"That you, you piece of a—!"

the man allegedly yelled before

becoming violent and tossing the

items at his 24-year-old boss.

Cops later arrested him and

charged him with assault, crim-

inal mischief and menacing.

Eighth hell

A thief broke into an Eighth

Avenue apartment between

March 18 and 20, stealing a com-

puter and jewelry, cops said.

The 38-year-old resident of the

building, at the corner of Fourth

Street, told police that the unit

was unoccupied between those

dates, when the thief apparently

broke in through a rear window.

Knocked down

A thief knocked a woman to

NABBED! Burglars caught in the act on Flushing Avenue

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

Cops interrupted the burglary of a Flushing

Avenue sneaker store on April 1, arresting one

half of a criminal team that was suspected of

robbing the shop of \$40,000 of merchandise in

January.

In the latest crime, the crooks broke into the

building at around 1:15 a.m., busting through a

brick exterior wall from an adjacent construc-

tion site, cops said. Once inside, they triggered

an alarm, alerting the owner of the corner Hum-

boldt Street.

When cops arrived, they saw the two

thieves attempting to escape by climbing the

scaffolding next door. One of the crooks made

a "leap of faith" to the elevated J.M.Z. train at

the Broadway station, while the other fled

down Debevoise Street, cops say.

Police chased the crook into the train sta-

tion, but they emerged on the wrong side of the

platform and the crook used the subway to

make his getaway.

But the other burglar wasn't as lucky.

Officers Wilfredo Castillo and Valerie Ba-

landaro arrested the suspect at the corner Hu-

boldt Street.

Cops say a police car was

speeding with its lights and siren

blaring when another car crashed

into its side and kept on going.

Cops said they did not get a

good look at the other vehicle, but

the good news is that no one was

injured. — **Chris Cascarano**

62nd Precinct

Bensonhurst

Bank rob

Two 86th Street banks were

robbed within days of each other

last week, and clues may link the

two crimes to the same robber.

The first robbery was on

March 28 at a branch near Bay

20th Street. The thief entered at

around 4 p.m. and gave a note to

the teller.

"I have a gun," it read. "Pass

\$100s and \$50s. I don't want to

shoot anyone."

The teller complied, and

handed over \$1,112 to the thief,

who stopped her before she

could throw in a dye pack, po-

lice said. The perp exited with

a cash and heading for the D

train Bay Parkway.

A week later, another bank,

this one near Bay Parkway, was

robbed at around 4 p.m. As in the

other case, the thief walked in

and handed a note to the teller,

who handed over \$1,000.

Both crimes were on a Friday

afternoon, around 4 p.m. —

and both crooks held their hands

in their pockets to simulate a gun.

Also in both robberies, the thieves

used over similar notes and

took in similar sums of money.

Yet police were not ready to say

both incidents were related.

Bedroom burg

A thug cleaned out a Benson

Avenue apartment on April 5.

The 30-year-old tenant re-

turned to his apartment, which is

near Bay 41st Street, at around

10:30 a.m. to discover that a perp

had come in through a second-

floor window and somehow

bypassed the alarm system.

Once inside, he swiped elec-

tronics and jewelry, police said.

Flat funds

A Good Samaritan had his

cash and credit cards robbed as

he attempted to help a stranger

with a flat tire on 86th Street on

March 28.

But the flat tire was just a ruse

in this distasteful crime at around

1:30 p.m. near Bay 42nd Street.

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Photo-graft

A man in a business suit stealthily made off with photo equipment during an April 11 shoot at a wedding hall on Ross Street.

The crook casually grabbed an unattended bag containing a camera, three lenses and two flashes at around 9:50 p.m., cops say. He left the building, which is between Wythe and Bedford streets, before the photographer realized his equipment was missing.

— **Ben Muessig**

94th Precinct

Williamsburg-Greenpoint

School prey

A teen mugger stole \$35

from a 15-year-old student in a

Bedford Avenue high school on

April 2, but he didn't keep the

money for long.

The crook confronted the vic-

tim at around 9 a.m. while he was

on his way to breakfast in Auto-

mobile HS, which is between

North 12th and Lefferts streets.

The mugger grabbed the cash

from the victim's pocket and fled

— but cops arrested a suspect

and retold the docket.

Bicycle thief

A pedal-pushing perp broke

into a Newel Street shed on

April 3 and rode away on a

high-end bicycle.

The crook got into the un-

locked shed between 2 a.m. and

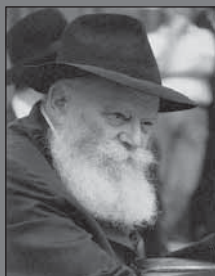
11 a.m. and stole a green Bianchi

bicycle while the victim slept.

The crook biked away from the

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On Wednesday, the 11th day of Nissan, corresponding to the 16th of April, people from all around the world will be celebrating the Lubavitcher Rebbe's 106th birthday.

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If by tradition, you could speak of the ever increasing return of Jews, from all walks of life, to the observance of Torah and traditions of their forefathers.

If by spirituality, you could point to his recognition as the foremost Jewish spiritual leader in the world today and to his responsibility for the spiritual reawakening of Jews and non-Jews around the world.

If by service, you could wend through the unending listing of educational, charitable, religious, and social programs inaugurated around the world.

If by scholarship, you could study the more than 200 volumes of his published works.

But today, the measure of the leadership of the Rebbe is the outpouring of love, of gratitude, of congratulations from millions of followers, admirers and beneficiaries throughout the world.

Mazal tov, Rebbe

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1266 Prospect Ave.
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Chabad of Clinton Hill
Rabbi Zali Abramowitz
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OUR OPINION

Cut Ratner off

One of the details that Atlantic Yards supporters tend to ignore when ticking off the alleged public benefits of Bruce Ratner's mega-development is that New York taxpayers are generously underwriting — and, in some cases, outright paying for — them.

- New infrastructure to accommodate Ratner's proposed 6,800 units? No problem.
- Direct cash grants to get the project going? Fifty-eight million of the promised \$200 million have already been handed over.
- Property tax exemptions and affordable housing subsidies? On the way.
- Development rights that were appraised at \$214 million? Sold to Ratner for \$100 million!
- A publicly financed arena? First it was going to cost us \$435 million to build —

now it'll take \$950 million of our money.

- A \$1-a-year lease on that arena when it's done? That'll save Ratner millions more — plus, he gets to keep every dime of the \$40-million deal with Barclays to emblazon the bank's name on an arena that is owned (at least on paper!) by the people of New York.

All together, the financial assistance to Ratner is anywhere from \$1 billion, according to City Councilman David Yassky, or more than \$2 billion, according to the Atlantic Yards opposition group, Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn. And now Ratner wants more.

In a conference call with industry analysts last week, Charles Ratner, president and CEO of Forest City Enterprises, the parent company of his cousin Bruce's Forest City Ratner Companies, proudly reported that his company had gotten "various governmental agencies

in New York to increase their commitments to Atlantic Yards."

Then he added four words: "We still need more."

More? More for what, exactly? New York taxpayers have already been far too generous in propping up this 16-sky-scraper white elephant.

And just as the economy starts to dip, Bruce Ratner and cousin Chuck — who are always hailed by our elected enablers as risk-taking visionaries — come to us asking for more money to underwrite their ideas.

It must stop. At this point, only a few members of the City Council, most notably Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) and Letitia James (D-Fort Greene), are questioning what their colleagues obviously believe is a done deal.

But this deal is not done because Ratner keeps trying to change it. Let's not let him get away with it.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

Readers: What are kids doing in bars, anyway?

To the editor,

Your story about parents who insist that local bars allow them to bring their young children and strollers into these establishments was disturbing to say the least ("South Slope stroller spot," March 29).

This demand is indicative of the "not-to-be-denied" attitude that permeates places like Park Slope. Parents routinely allow their toddlers to run around and make all the noise they want in restaurants as if they were in their own living rooms. Did it ever occur to them that other patrons find this offensive? Is a drinking establishment the best place for young children to be exposed to?

If I frequented a bar, the last thing I would want to see is a bunch of small children with their coddling parents in my

midst. The owners should take a stand and side with their regular patrons against this invasive behavior.

Earl Cantos, Park Slope

Dog soldier

To the editor,

I have worked at an animal shelter, and I know both how hard and how rewarding it can be ("Better off dead? Ban on Slope group could mean death for pound dogs," March 15).

Nothing feels better than watching an animal go to a loving new home. Unfortunately, for every good experience there will be a dozen bad ones.

Animals come in abused, sick, aggressive, and neglected, some so unhealthy or ill tempered that they have to be euthanized. A pet you thought was going home forever may be returned to the shelter by an irresponsible owner.

There are people who try to take advantage of the shelters, sometimes financially. People who do not meet pre-screening requirements will argue and cause a scene in the middle of the shelter. There are many who will treat you badly because you want to treat animals well. But seeing how someone treats an animal is the best way to

gauge who they are as a person.

Animal rescue is a hard situation, and, yes, sometimes you have to be tough and firm with people. The city needs more rescues and shelters, and more people who care as much as Laurie Bleier obviously does. It certainly doesn't need to put hundreds of animals on death row because a few people didn't like the answer they got.

Liza Eckert, DUMBO

Be-trayed

To the editor,

I was dismayed to read your front-page article comparing pressed-sugar-cane trays with Styrofoam trays ("Field test: It's a tale of two trays," March 29). Rather than attempting an unbiased analysis of the costs and benefits of the two food trays, you chose to toss objectivity and any pretense

of scientific method out the window and instead play it for laughs — or so I have to assume after reading of your fundamentally flawed "battery of experiments."

Rather than testing the trays with a normal student lunch in a school cafeteria (in the manner they are intended to be used), you instead had a local restaurateur pile an obscene amount of food on them, smothering each tray with a mass of carbohydrates that (as your own photo proves) would be more than enough to feed several children.

The article almost audibly snickers as the grossly overloaded tray becomes flimsy "after a few minutes," but then immediately moves on to even grosser distortions. You didn't include actual numbers, but I'll do you the favor: a Styrofoam tray lives in the landfills for at least 10,000 years, steadily adding to the dump's toxic leakage until it finally decomposes. Ten thousand years. The cane tray safely biodegrades after 45 days.

But hey, why bother doing a real comparison when your apparent goal is to simply laugh at the idea (and by extension dismiss the forward-thinking ef-

forts of a school)? While you amuse yourself in this manner, the rest of us will continue to seek alternatives to plastic waste and toxins that are poisoning us, our children, and our planet.

Chris Wallace, Carroll Gardens

Editor's note: Our "field test" was just that — an experiment to see how each tray held up under extreme conditions. The accompanying article reported all of the statistics and information that the letter writer mentions above.

Across the park

To the editor,

Thanks for the nice coverage of Prospect Lefferts Gardens ("Prospect Lefferts Gardens gets big," April 5)! If you're in the neighborhood again, try dinner at Cafe Enduro on Lincoln Road. It's very warm and homey, and the food and drinks are pretty good as well.

Judy Jones, Prospect Lefferts Gardens

R.I.P. Bertha

To the editor,

Thanks to The Brooklyn Paper for prominent mention of the passing of Bertha, the tiger shark from the New York Aquarium ("Circle of Life (Death)," April 5).

Bertha's death follows on the heels of the death of four of these amazing crea-

tures at the new Atlanta Aquarium. These sharks swim across tremendous ranges each day and putting them in captivity is like putting an eagle in a parakeet cage.

I hope the Aquarium will forego any attempt to place more sharks in their proposed expansion.

Wayne Johnson, Brooklyn Heights

Power to the people

To the editor,

I read your article on the rejection of that power plant in Williamsburg ("Park without plants," April 5) and was upset. Once again a neighborhood cheers a power plant's denial. But I wonder: will these same people be cheering when the city calls for reducing power consumption when the temps rise this summer or when Con Ed reduces voltage? I think not.

Look, I am no great lover of Con Ed, but give them a break. Every time they try to build a power plant, they are fought. Con Ed should tell the Bloomberg administration that they cannot hook up any new power sources for any of the ridiculous building boom (disaster) going on throughout the five boroughs, and that these greedy, mega-developers, who always get their way, supply the power source for their own projects.

Richie Hecht, Bay Ridge

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By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Brooklyn, NY 11201.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

April 12, 2008

Knish upon a star

Just in time for Passover, Park Sloper's guide to Jewish food

By Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

Yiddish food is the Rodney Dangerfield of cuisine," said cookbook author and famed foodie Arthur Schwartz. "It doesn't get any respect."

With the release of his newest book, "Arthur Schwartz's Jewish Home Cooking," the Park Slope resident is hoping to change all that. A collection of recipes ranging from chocolate babka to "Chinese roast meat on garlic bread with duck sauce," Schwartz's book revisits the history of Yiddish dishes and updates them for today's palate.

Some of the recipes are suitable for Passover, which begins Saturday night, April 19, while others are for the rest of the year.

"I love this food. It's the food of my heritage, and the food I grew up eating," Schwartz, 61, told GO Brooklyn. "It's a very important cuisine. Millions of people were raised on it, and it's very good. Jews somehow don't give it the due it should get. I don't think people realize that we've come full circle — there are ingredients and an attitude that are more contemporary now."

From vegetarian takes on classics like chopped liver and gravy to lightened versions of traditionally heavy dishes, Schwartz has culled some of the favorites from the kitchens of delis and grandmothers alike.

"I took old recipes, and I tried to make them taste more contemporary. For instance, my grandma made great potato kugel [pudding], but I make that recipe now, and it's way too heavy," said Schwartz. "I always think that most secular Jews make this food only for holidays, and when it's all starches and a pickle is your vegetable, of course it's heavy!"

"When you make the kugel that I devised for this book, with a piece of grilled meat and vegetables, it's a contemporary meal with a Yiddish point of view."

Sometimes, though, even the most accomplished cook gets too tired to make anything but reservations. But Schwartz can nuzzle up



traditional Jewish food without leaving the borough.

"Part of my research was to eat around, buy food and see what people were eating," said

Schwartz. "I can go to four or five different kosher shopping communities in Brooklyn. We do have some excellent food stores — the best in the world for kosher food."

BOOKS

"Arthur Schwartz's Jewish Home Cooking" (\$35, 10 Speed Press) is available at Sterling Place (363 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street in Boerum Hill). Schwartz will read from his book at 7 pm on April 18 at the Park Slope Barnes and Noble (267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope). For information, visit www.foodnjoy.com.



Unleavened fun: Author Arthur Schwartz fries up a stack of matzo meal latkes from a recipe found in his new book, "Jewish Home Cooking."

Whether it's cabbage strudel at Crown Restaurant (4909 13th Ave. at 49th Street in Borough Park), kosher Italian food at Cafe Napoli (1636 Coney Island Ave. at Avenue M in Midwood) or pastries from Mansoura's Oriental Pastry (515 Kings Hwy. at East Third Street in Gravesend), Brooklyn offers plenty of foodstuffs for the diner with a taste for Jewish food — and it might be the only part of town that does.

When he lived in Manhattan, Schwartz said his friends would rib him about his devotion to eating in Brooklyn.

"I lived in Manhattan, but I always felt like a defector. When I would come back to Brooklyn, which I always did, all my friends in Manhattan would say, 'Arthur's going to the Holy Land!' It was worth the teasing, though, to stock up on the food that was becoming impossible to get anywhere else. We have maybe the best, and certainly the last, Jewish bakeries in the city in Brooklyn," lamented Schwartz.

His book has a whole chapter of Passover-friendly recipes to make at home, ranging from traditional "matzoh brie," fried matzoh, to sweet cottage cheese "chremslach" (pancakes), Passover apple cake (see recipe at left) and a dessert of wine-poached pears.

"You can eat an awful lot of good things on Passover, you just can't eat bread," said Schwartz, who admitted a special weakness for matzoh brie. "There are a lot of recipes to be used [since] it's very difficult to eat out over Passover. I always go for the egg salad on Passover or I have chopped eggs and onions. I also love matzoh meal pancakes — it's something I make all year now."

In addition to recipes, Schwartz's book offers a peek at the dining establishments and traditions that have disappeared since the glory days of Yiddish dining in New York.

"I remember the Caskills and the borscht belt and a lot of the old dairy restaurants," said Schwartz. "I came in at the end of that era, but there were still plenty of them around, even into the 1970s. There is a whole generation — if I had children, they would be my children — who are interested in this, but don't really know anything about it and would like to learn. The book is for them. It's also for people my age and older who have great nostalgia for it."

SPA

Say 'spahhh'

Those suffering from dull complexions, aching muscles and tattered toenails should stop and make an appointment — now. It's Spa Week again, and 11 Brooklyn pampering emporiums are offering several services for the rock-bottom price of 50 bucks, from April 14 through April 20.

Among the participating spas are Magnolia Beauty Spa in Williamsburg, which is offering an hour-long, mouth-watering blueberry scrub with body massage; Bruno Salon and Spa in Bay Ridge, promising to rid unwanted hair from underarms, chin or sideburns with laser hair removal; and Park Slope's Element Beauty Lounge, with an hour-long, green tea hot creme manicure and pedicure.

Most of the spas are offering full-length services at the cut-rate price in order to entice first-time customers to give pampering a try.

"We don't want the public to be intimidated by luxury," said Bruno Grillo, proprietor of Bruno Salon and Spa. "Our message is that you don't have to be a millionaire to come in and get a treatment."

Participating spas are taking reservations now. For a complete list, visit www.spaweek.org. — Lisa J. Curtis

TV

Eye 'Candy'

For Jennifer Dziura, stand-up comedy is no joke. After three years of running "Monday Night Stand-Up," a live comedy show at Pete's Candy Store in Williamsburg, she's reaching even more neighborhoods through television. Now, every Tuesday at midnight the show will air on BCAT.

"I also like to bring comedy to people with no arms and legs," said Dziura. "People who can't make it to Pete's." Each 28-minute episode is filmed live at Pete's Candy Store and then edited for content and continuity, which means there is a months-long lag between the shows and the broadcast. However, Dziura (pictured) said it's worth it. "I tour nationally as a comedian and do play regular comedy clubs," said Dziura, "but if I am in the Chuckle Hut or the Laft Place in the Midwest, I can't do the material I want to do; I have to do what will make those people laugh. But when I am in Williamsburg, I can expect that people will be in the same [audience] as me."

"Monday Night Stand-Up" is held at 7 pm on Mondays at Pete's Candy Store (709 Lorimer St. at Stillman Avenue in Williamsburg). The televised version airs at midnight on Tuesdays on BCAT, Channel 56. For information, visit www.petescandystore.com.

— Adam Rathe

EXHIBIT

Doll house

In a small Prospect Heights community, 31 artists have come together to create a new neighborhood — populated entirely by handmade dolls.

"Doll Neighborhood" is comprised of more than 40 dolls made from clay, leather, old socks and scraps of fabric. There is even a video component of the show featuring the figures interacting. The dolls, according to curator Ellie Balk, act as the "uninhibited child's dreams coming from adult artists."

Balk, a Clinton Hill resident, pulled together artists with varied experience, "from people who have been quilters to a photographer who has never sewn in her life," she told GO Brooklyn. The idea behind the project is the "spirit of collaboration," said Balk.

Her co-curator, Kristin Breneman Eno, said the project, "opened us up for the dolls to say things we would never say."

"Doll Neighborhood" continues through April 18 at the Renate Albertsen-Martens Space/Village @ Gursie (886 Pacific St. between Washington and Underhill avenues in Prospect Heights). For information, call (718) 857-2522 or visit www.dollneighborhood.org.

— Linnea Covington

HAVE YOUR CAKE

This Passover, try a tasty dish from Arthur Schwartz's "Jewish Home Cooking: Yiddish Recipes Revisited." The Park Slope foodie has packed his new cookbook with dozens of tempting dishes. Try this one for "Passover Apple Cake," which makes one 8-inch square cake.

TOPPING

1/2-cup coarsely chopped walnuts or pecans
3/4-cup sugar
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon or a combination of ground cinnamon, nutmeg, mace and ginger

CAKE

3 eggs
3/4-cup sugar
1/3-cup vegetable oil
3/4-cup matzo cake meal
5 medium apples, peeled, cored, halved and cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices (about 5 cups), preferably Golden Delicious, Crispin (Mutsu), or other apples that keep their shape when cooked
1/3-cup raisins (optional)

"Position an oven rack in the center of the oven. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightly oil an 8-inch square glass-baking dish. To prepare the topping, mix together the walnuts, sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl; set aside.

To prepare the cake batter, in a bowl, with a hand-held electric mixer, beat the eggs on medium speed until well mixed. Beat in the sugar about 2 tablespoons at a time, until the mixture is thick and foamy. Beat in the oil, adding it in a steady stream. Scrape down the bowl with a rubber spatula. With the spatula, stir in the matzo cake meal, blending well.

Pour half of the batter mixture into the prepared pan. Sprinkle about half the topping mixture evenly over the batter. Top with half the apples and all the raisins. Scrape the remaining

half of the batter over the apples, spreading it out to cover the apples. Arrange the remaining apples on top of the batter. Sprinkle evenly with the remaining topping mixture.

Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes, or until the sides of the cake pull away very slightly from the baking dish and the topping has begun to caramelize. (A cake tester is not reliable. It will not come out clean due to the moist richness of this cake.) Let sit in the baking dish for several hours until completely cool before cutting into serving portions. This cake is yet another Yiddish food that improves with age. Keep the cake in its dish, covered tightly with plastic, and the next day the topping will have become a moist, candy-like coating."

— from "Arthur Schwartz's Jewish Home Cooking: Yiddish Recipes Revisited."

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'Walworth' your time

Cross-dressing aside, play's U.S. premiere won't be a drag

By Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

When GO Brooklyn reached playwright Enda Walsh, he was at home in London and had just finished watching an episode of "Curb Your Enthusiasm." The 41-year-old Irishman is the author of "The Walworth Farce," which will make its U.S. debut at St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO on April 15, but despite being a serious playwright, he was still floored by Larry David's antics.

"It's so good," he said. "That's perfect farce."

Commissioned by the Druid Theatre Company of Galway, his play premiered at the Druid Festival in 2006, and recently won the "Fringe First" award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. With its stateside premiere on the horizon, GO Brooklyn spoke to Walsh about the show, visiting Brooklyn, and whether folks in the U.K. really do eat fried Twinkies.

GO Brooklyn: Where did the idea for "The Walworth Farce" originate?

Enda Walsh: For this particular show, its beginnings are in Irish immigrant plays. As much as I dislike Irish immigrant plays — because a lot of them are dull and romantic — I really wanted to tackle one. Inherent in every Irish person is a connection with the immigrant, and you're just aware of it. I spent my college years working in London and meeting these Irish guys who went over there in the 1970s and built homes but never actually got home, so they romanticized about home and spent a lot of time in pubs. It's always something I've carried around with me.

The construction of a farce came about by accident, but I pursued it and



Family affair: "The Walworth Farce," written by Enda Walsh (far right), features actors Denis Conway and Garrett Lombard. The play makes its U.S. premiere on April 15 in DUMBO.

it seemed like a good construct to hang things off of and would keep an audience alert and excited.

GO: The "Walworth Farce," like your earlier works, focuses on a family. Is the play at all autobiographical?

EW: I don't think so, but I'm very interested in what it means to be a father or a

brother in a family. You're brought up within a family, but the more you live away from one another, the less of a connection you have. You think you know your family, but do you? At the heart of it, this play is about a father trying to keep the family together in an extraordinary, funny, ludicrous, cruel way. I think any man will recognize the real

need to keep his sons or daughters safe.

My relationship with my father, knowing that he was always trying to do the best thing for us... from a son's point of view, you look at it and say "I don't think you did that right," but in retrospect, you know he did a fine job. It's that sort of conversation I want to have with the audience; it's theatrical but the sentiment is simple.

GO: One of the characters performs in drag. How does that go over with his family?

EW: Garrett Lombard is in drag — his character is one of the sons. The play is about a father who gets up every morn-

ing and makes his sons play a farce. He dresses them up as characters in the play he wrote. The one son is actually the much more masculine, alpha male son, and the actor, who is very handsome and muscular, plays about four women. To see this sort of man morph into a little old lady or a sexy temptress is a very funny thing. We're seeing this very strange depiction of women on stage through the eyes of this wild Irishman.

GO: The show's U.S. premiere is in Brooklyn. Is that something you're looking forward to? Where else will it be showing?

EW: I've got mates who live in Brooklyn Heights, so I was there a couple years ago and know the neighborhood. It's extraordinary and has such color and dynamism to it, as opposed to Manhattan. Brooklyn feels more like London. This is the only engagement, and we'll see how it goes — you put it out there and hope for the best. It would be a sweet thing to bring it other places, but it's a tricky thing for a foreign playwright to get work into America. I'm just delighted that someone saw it and liked it. My contemporaries over here talk about New York theater and that St. Ann's is really embracing European theater. It's a real honor to be showing there.

GO: We've got a local delicacy — fried candy bars or Twinkies — at the British-themed Chip Shop in Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope and Bay Ridge. Will you be eating any to remind you of home?

EW: They do that in Scotland, but not so much in Ireland. I saw a deep-fried Snickers bar in Scotland, but I think in Scotland they batter everything. I went to a Scottish buffet, and it was the most beige thing I've ever seen in my life, it was just a table of battered goods. A Twinkie? My God, that sounds dangerous — and perverted.

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— Tina Barry, The Brooklyn Paper

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Catching the 'Flea'

Hundreds of shoppers flocked to the April 6 grand opening of the Brooklyn Flea — a 200-vendor gathering in the yard at Bishop Loughlin HS on Lafayette Avenue.

Whether they were there to buy clothes, eat waffles or gawk at the spectacle, Brooklynites were out in force.

GO Brooklyn was there and caught up with shoppers to see what the Flea offered to scratch each shopper's itch.

The Brooklyn Flea is held Sundays from 10 am to 5 pm on Lafayette Avenue, between Clermont and Vanderbilt avenues in Fort Greene.



Shawn Taylor, 27, Clinton Hill
Favorite find: "A [vintage] Marc Jacobs dress."



Justin Jarboe, 25, Fort Greene
Favorite find: "Vintage seitzer bottles."



Ruth Malachi, 42, Park Slope
Favorite find: "Great deals on pocketbooks and jewelry."



Annette Gallo, 32, Fort Greene
Favorite find: "I loved the antiques and the local artwork."



Joe Piccirillo, 31, Williamsburg
Favorite find: "The old mirrors salvaged from houses."



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\$9.49 Everything that we love about a good Chardonnay, except the high price! Grown in the sunny Pays d'Oc, the land of the minstrels and of courtly love, this wine delivers flavors of honey, toasty almonds, lemons, grapefruit and vanilla. Enchanting!



Lorca Monastrell

Mountain vineyards, planted by the Romans! Here's a dark, ruby red wine to go with richer dishes. Plenty of flavors of black cherry and plum, with heady, ripe aromas; a full-flavored wine that is big without being heavy.



Essex Merlot

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April 12, 2008

Editor of the Year 2008

'Hotel' check in

Union Pool alums open sophisticated bar

By Sarah McCormick
 for The Brooklyn Paper

With its unconventional entrance — an unmarked door on a side street — and frosted front windows, you could easily pass by Hotel Delmano, the latest hip new bar to grace Williamsburg. Open since January, Delmano (a collaboration of Zeb Stewart and Alyssa Abeyta — owners of Billyburg's ever-popular Union Pool — and Michael Smart) adds a touch of class to the neighborhood's nightlife. Barflies, as well as folks snatching up the million-dollar waterfront condos, have embraced it.

After opening Union Pool nearly eight years ago, Stewart, now 36, decided it was time to bring some finesse to Williamsburg. So he developed Hotel Delmano ("by hand" in Spanish), a classy, European-inspired joint with a tasty cocktail list and quiet, portrait-lined rooms where privacy comes easy for a close conversation, or a casual gathering of friends.

"It's got a kind Old World social club feel," Stewart told GO Brooklyn. "It transports you to a different place. We want people to come out and talk about everything: life, sex, politics, war, whatever."

One topic that has been on everyone's lips is Hotel Delmano's cocktail list. Created by Jeff Hansen, a former mixologist at the Pencil Factory in Greenpoint and Diner in Williamsburg, the bar's drinks run from \$9 to \$14 and include "The Corpse Reviver No. 2," a mix of gin, Cointreau, Lillet, lemon juice and passion; a "Hemingway Daiquiri," a blend of rum, maraschino liqueur, lime and grapefruit; and "The Commandant's Cocktail," a combination of pear cognac, Cointreau, lemon juice and green chartreuse.

The bar also stocks each table with dried fruit and nuts, a welcome change from the junk food — or no food at all — that most local watering holes offer.

Williamsburg resident Jennifer Krako told GO Brooklyn, "The bar has a pretty im-



Photo: Brooklyn Paper/Neil Gray/Photo

Romance on tap: Williamsburg's Hotel Delmano offers quiet corners and an impressive cocktail list by mixologist Jeff Hansen.

pressive selection of wines and an obvious perk is the ... free snacks."

So while the tiny spot is packed most nights, chilly weather has kept it from becoming overrun like so many bars before it.

Not for long, though.

According to Stewart, once the weather warms, outside seating — as well as a menu of small plates — will be available. And to make good on the bar's name, one day, the rooms upstairs will be for rent to weary — or perhaps just drunken — travelers.

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Memory Lane

BAM's gala, featuring Paul Simon, attracts nostalgic stars from TV, film

By Adam Rathe

The stars were all visible "Under African Skies" on April 9, when the Brooklyn Academy of Music hosted a gala to honor Paul Simon, who performed a concert by the same name — part of a month-long tour to a critically "Love in Hard Times."

After a sold-out crowd watched Simon perform his like "Graceland" and "Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes" with a rotating cast of famous

friends including **Ladysmith Black Mambazo**, pregnant Brazilian singer **Luciana Souza** and **David Byrne** — whose cover of "Call Me A" was one of the night's brightest moments — they shuffled across Fort Greene's Ashland Place into a tent to mingle and mangle an African-themed dinner.

"We come all the way out to a certain love to hear these songs," said actor **Wallace Shawn**, who blushed when GO Brooklyn asked what memories Simon's songs triggered for him. "I'm sure everyone's an-

swer is secret, isn't it?" asked the "Princess Bride" star. "I wouldn't tell you!" "Friends" star **David Schwimmer** was equally open, flashing a mischievous grin before telling us that the first concert he ever saw was Simon and Garfunkel in Central Park.

A bit less tipsy was chef **Mario Batali**. "I would say that listening to 'Me and Julia Down by the Schoolyard' while I was getting ready to make out for the first time in my life would be one of my best Paul Simon memo-

ries," revealed Batali. "But there are thousands because his music has spanned so much time and his records are so good. The first time ever heard 'Graceland.' I'll never forget that — look, I've got goosebumps!"

GO Brooklyn checked. He wasn't lying. If Batali got goosebumps just thinking about the songs, what did Byrne — who had to perform alongside his legendary pal — do to prepare? "I listened to the record, and we had rehearsal, and I sang it to myself over

Under Brooklyn skies: (From left to right) Actress Parker Posey, Susan Sarandon and Cynthia Nixon visited the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Wednesday night to see Paul Simon (near left) perform his "Under African Skies" concert. (Above) Actor David Schwimmer (left) and chef Mario Batali attended the gala dinner under a tent on Ashland Place.

singing," he said. Byrne had already gotten boots and rollers for his vocals and adorably awkward dancing — would the audience offer a standing O before the run of "Under African Skies" ends on April 13?

"I think he has the charisma to make it happen," predicted Melillo. Speaking of another starstruck — and keeping in mind the stir that Byrne's performance caused — we can only imagine what would happen if **Parker Posey** got on stage. Pushing flowers from her table's centerpiece behind her ears, the "Superman Returns" star said, "I remember

being seven years old, in a little white house in Louisiana, and singing 'We Ways to Leave Your Lover,' and just acting it out."

"How exactly does one do that?" we asked. "By myself in the yard. When that would come on the radio — that song, for whatever reason, I just wait for it."

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

Cohen, a leading sociologist of American Judaism. He discusses what intermarriage means to Jews and Judaism. \$5 includes bagels and coffee. 11 a.m. 274 Orchard Pl. (718) 768-3814.

BOOK SIGNING: Park Slope Jewish Center presents Richard and Liora Cohen, authors/illustrators of "The Joyous Hagaddah," 12:30 p.m. 1320 Eighth Ave. (718) 832-6533. Free.

CARD PARTY: hosted by Kew-Forest High School. Luxury prizes are part of the event. \$5 includes refreshments and a pack of coffee filters. 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. 7100 Shore Rd. (718) 835-7100. ext. 184.

BAM SILENT AUCTION: Brooklyn Academy of Music hosts a closing day reception for its fourth annual 10-day event. Works by Jasper Johns, Louise Lawler, John Baldessari, Christo and Jeanne-Claude and others on display. Photographs by Annie Leibovitz is scheduled to attend. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Bid at www.bam.org/auction. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4129.

CAFE STEINHOFF: Movie night "Body Heat" (1981). 10:30 p.m. 422 Seventh Ave. (718) 369-7776. Free.

Mon, April 14

EVENING OF DRAMA: Fund-raising event to benefit Brave New World Repertory Theatre's production of "Fahrenheit 451." Pulitzer Prize-winning playwrights and author David Lindsay-Abeare is guest. Screenings from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. 88C Studios, 51 Rockwell Pl. (718) 855-7882.

Tues, April 15

SPECIAL NEEDS: Resources for Children with Special Needs hosts a talk, "Turning S: Transition to School Age," 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch at Grand Army Plaza. (718) 477-4600. Free.

CONCERT: Brooklyn Public Library's Brooklyn Heights branch hosts a classical guitar concert, "Music for Springtime," with Dan Witter. 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 280 Cadogan Place West. (718) 625-7100. Free.

BAM: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "The Sealer Theatre Centre in 'Sowze Banz! Is Dead.' \$25 to \$60. 7:30 p.m. BAM Harvey Theater. (718) 634-4100.

SALSA CLASS: Cyteline Krip Dance Studio serves up salsa. 7:30 p.m. Beginners welcome. 1254 Prospect Ave. (718) 437-0101. Free.

BUTCHER FOR A DAY: Brooklyn Kitchen teaches a class on how to carve a pig, and offers cooking tips. \$75 includes six pounds of meat to take home. 6:30 p.m. 616 Lorimer St. (718) 389-2862.

FICTION NIGHT: Samantha Hunt and Alex Rose read. 7 p.m. Pacific Standard Pub, 52 Fourth Ave. (718) 858-1951. Free.

BOOKLOVE: presents a reading with Tim Brown, Walking Man and Paul McCormac. Planet of the Dates. 7 p.m. 163 Court St. (718) 875-5677. Free.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents The David Theater Company of Galaxy in "The Walworth Force." \$37.50, 8 p.m. 38 Water St. (718) 254-4779.

PUBLIC ART: Artist Tom Otterness' "Large Covered Wagon," a bronze statue, is unveiled. 5:30 p.m. Prospect and Washington streets in DUMBO. Free.

Weds, April 16

CHORAL MUSIC: As part of Immigrant Heritage Week, the Brooklyn Women's Chorus performs "Mother of Exiles," a multi-media concert about immigration. 6:20 p.m. to 8:20 p.m. Brooklyn College Library, Tanager Auditorium, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 788-3741. Free.

SCREENING: In conjunction with the exhibit "Ethnographies of the future," Screening of film and video works by Pedro Baraterio, Lena Berg, Neo Busto and others. 7 p.m. 511 88C Studios, 51 Rockwell Pl. (718) 855-7882.

AUTHOR SERIES: Knickerbocker Community College presents a lecture by Bryan, Hagdy, Chopin, Patting and others. 8 p.m. 535, 530 seniors and students. 8 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

READING: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents "Countdown to Comic Con," with graphic novelists who talk about drawing superheroes. 7 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: Classical music program to celebrate the 100th birthday of Igor Stravinsky. Selections include works by Beethoven, Chopin, Prokofiev and others. \$35, \$20 seniors and students. 8 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

DRAMA: Ryan Repertory Company presents "Thistle Blossoms." \$12, 8 p.m. 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 996-4800.

COMEDY NIGHT: 8:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Pub, 52 Fourth Ave. (718) 858-1951. Free.

BAM: "Sowze Banz! Is Dead." \$25 to \$60. 7:30 p.m. BAM Harvey Theater. (718) 634-4100.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "The Walworth Force." 8 p.m. See Sat, April 19.

Thurs, April 17

JAMES BOND: Heights and Hill Community Council and the Brooklyn Historical Society present municipal bondman Jim Lebenthal. 2 p.m. Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 586-8789. Free.

LITERARY SERIES: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch hosts "Eat, Drink and Be Literary" series. Tonight's guest is poet Charles Simic. 5:45 includes and others. 8 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

GOOD COFFEEHOUSE: Third Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop presents Ben Grant and the Daughters. 10 p.m. 53 Prospect Park West at Second Street. (718) 768-2972.

AWARD CEREMONY: New York Island University and African Voices Magazine pay tribute to song lyrics and storyteller Nancy Wilson. \$150 includes private reception at 5:30 p.m. 5100 ceremony at 7 p.m. DeKalb and Flatbush avenues. (718) 488-1624.

BOOKCUT: presents a reading with Nathaniel Rich and the Mayor's League. 7 p.m. 163 Court St. (718) 875-5677. Free.

TENNIS EVERYONE: Prospect Park Alliance hosts a fundraiser to add tennis benefits for children who are wheelchair bound. Evening features cocktails, drink, raffles and entertainment. 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Festive attire. (718) 965-6988.

BOOK DISCUSSION: Freeborn's Post-Apocalyptic reading series continues with a discussion of "A Canticle for Leibowitz." 7 p.m. 163 Court St. (718) 875-5677. Free.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents The David Theater Company of Galaxy in "The Walworth Force." \$37.50, 8 p.m. 38 Water St. (718) 254-4779.

JAZZ AT BARGE MUSIC: The Judy Carmichael Trio plays jazz. \$35, \$30 seniors, \$20 students. 8 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

THE BRICK: Preview of "Babyhood," a mix of Herodotus, Carl B. DeMille, Kenneth Anger, Richard Schickel and others. \$15, \$10 seniors, \$10 students. 8 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

MUSIC: \$25 benefit event at Hank's Saloon, Chuck and Sue Rock, a blues-based rock band, performs. \$5, \$30 seniors and students. 8 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

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ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "The Walworth Force." 8 p.m. See Sat, April 19.

Fri, April 18

SENIOR CINEMA: Brooklyn Academy of Music hosts its film series for seniors and presents "The Fortune Cookie" (1966). Rose Cinema, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: Classical music program features works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich and others. \$35, \$20 seniors and students. 8 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

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DRAMA: "Thistle Blossoms." 8 p.m. See Sat, April 19.

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Sun, April 20

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BAM: "Sowze Banz! Is Dead." \$25 to \$60. 7:30 p.m. See Sat, April 19.

PERFORMANCE

CONCERT: Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music presents The Duo Prism in a concert of works by Beethoven, Brahms and Copland. \$20, \$10 students. 8 p.m. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 S. Oxford. (718) 625-7515.

BARGE MUSIC: Classical music program features works by Copland, Beethoven, Brahms and others. The Clavier Trio performs. \$35, \$30 seniors and students. 8 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "The Walworth Force." 4 p.m. See Sat, April 19.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM: hosts a panel discussion, "Exploring Japan: Consuming Art in Japan/ America." Talk in conjunction with the museum's exhibits "Murakami" and "Utagawa: Masters of the Japanese Print." \$8, \$4 students and seniors. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Also, creative art-making workshop: Manga Pop-Up Cards. Adults are invited to explore the work of Japanese artist Shigeo Fukuda by creating a three-dimensional manga card. 200 Eastern Pkwy. (718) 638-5000.

POETRY SALON: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch hosts a poetry salon with John Ashbery and Marcelle Durand. 4 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

GALLERY TALK: IC Gallery hosts an art talk. "The Chicken Dinner." The Box New Works by William J. 7 p.m. 65 R. Greene Pl. (718) 673-0706. Free.

Sun, April 20

Earth Day Second Night of Passover OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIKE RIDE AND ACTION: Time's Up hosts an Earth Day bike ride event. 1 p.m. Meet at park by the Brooklyn side of the Williamsburg Bridge bike path. (718) 802-5222. Free.

GREENWOOD WALK: Big Crown Towers takes a hike around the cemetery and offers introduction to the history, architecture and people buried there. \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 students. 1 p.m. Fifth Avenue and 25

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The Brooklyn Paper PAREN

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

Smartmom outsmarts Skenazy

Smartmom had never read Lenore Skenazy's column in the New York Sun before Tuesday, when Dumb Editor told her that Skenazy had become Parent Enemy Number 1 by letting her 9-year-old take the subway home from Bloomingdale's to an unrelaxed Manhattan neighborhood.

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford



By herself. "Long story short: My son got home, ecstatic with independence," Skenazy wrote. "Long story longer: Half the people I've told this episode to now want to turn me in for child abuse. As if keeping kids under lock and key and helmet and cellphone and nanny and surveillance is the right way to rear kids. It's not. It's debilitating — for us and for them."

The ensuing hysteria landed Skenazy on all the talk shows defending her seemingly indefensible position. She let her little baby — just a few years out of Mommy and Me class — ride the big bad subway. She must be chastised! She's worse than that woman who showed her kids in the tub!

Dumb Editor wanted to know what Smartmom thought of all this.

"Do you, for example, let the Oh So Feisty One take the

subway by herself?" Dumb Editor asked (now you know how he got his name).

Of course she doesn't! The 11-year-old OSFO just started walking to and from school by herself last September and they live right around the corner from PS 321.

Smartmom knows that OSFO could probably take the subway by herself, but she's not sure if she really wants to. First off, where would she go? It's not like it's 1967 when Smartmom was 9 and her parents let her take two city buses to school every morning.

Sure, she got mugged every now and again. On the subway and on the street. But that was de rigeur. Kids were frequently having their bus passes whisked out of their hands back in those days. But Smartmom was a pro — and she was pretty brave when it happened.

It was barely worth a mention to her parents.

And the subways weren't just for going to school. On weekends, Smartmom and her friends, Best and Oldest, would take the subway down to the Village to buy leather jackets and velvet coats at vintage clothing emporiums like Royal Rags on East Fourth Street and Ridge Farm on West Eighth Street.

No more riding your bike in Central Park without your parents. No more trips to F&O Schwartz, Wollman Rink, even Bloomingdale's, without your parents helicoptering over you.

No more 9-year-olds on the subway.

It's a shame because New York is a great city to be a kid in and part of being a kid is doing things all right, didn't we? (Dumb Editor note: We did?)

With this drive to be the best parents in history, came the narcissistic belief that children are completely created by their parents. That means kids need to be with their parents 24/7 whether playing educational games, doing home work, eating in restaurants, even hanging out at Union Hall.

Likewise, parents don't want their kids to do anything without them. They can't fathom the loss of control and they're just too darn scared.



"L" for Lenore!

driven to be as good as parenting as they were at, well, everything else.

Sure, this may have been a reaction to the laissez-faire parenting of the 1970s, but we turned out all right, didn't we? (Dumb Editor note: We did?)

Best parents in history, came the narcissistic belief that children are completely created by their parents. That means kids need to be with their parents 24/7 whether playing educational games, doing home work, eating in restaurants, even hanging out at Union Hall.

Likewise, parents don't want their kids to do anything without them. They can't fathom the loss of control and they're just too darn scared.

So, it's no surprise that when Skenazy let her 9-year-old do something on his own, it freaked out a lot of parents. Clearly, if a New York City kid is going to have a learning experience, mom and dad better be close by (or at least connected by cellphone).

Smartmom has even heard about parents who take their kids to college for the first time and actually hang out. Sometimes for days. Even weeks.

Boy, that's a far cry from when my parents dropped Smartmom off at SUNY Binghamton and drove away. See ya later. Bye-bye.

Sounds like Skenazy's kid was dying for a childhood adventure away from his mom and dad. If he lived in the country, he'd be running around the woods or making a house out of a refrigerator box. Kids need to feel like they're free.

So, you're probably wondering what is Smartmom going to let OSFO take the subway by herself? By herself? You've got to be kidding! Smartmom won't ever let OSFO take the subway alone.

Louise Crawford also writes "Only the Big Knows Brooklyn," a Web site.

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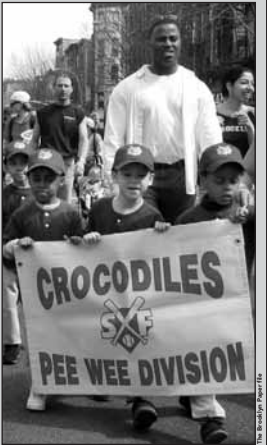
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FAMILY CALENDAR

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

- SATURDAY, APRIL 12**
10 am: Bay Ridge Little League opening day parade. Starts at Kew-Forest HS Shore Road at 71st Street and goes to the Frank Scher Field (Shore Road at 83rd Street). Call (718) 438-7923 for info.
- 11:30 am-2 pm: Book brunch with author Brian Selznick. Brooklyn Academy of Music, 50 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. \$20. \$15 children 15 and younger. Call (718) 636-4100 for info.
- 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Cinderella." Puppetworks (338 South Ave., at Fourth Street in Park Slope). \$6. \$7 kids. Call (718) 965-3391 for info.
- 1 pm and 3 pm: "Aesop's Fables." Impact Theater (190 Underhill Ave., at Sterling Place in Prospect Heights). \$10. \$7 children 12 and younger. Free for children 3 and younger. Call (943) 797-1320 for info.
- SUNDAY, APRIL 13**
2 pm: Concert with Randy Kaplan, the Deedle Deedle Dicks and other old stars, sponsored by Park Slope Parents. Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave., between Sterling and St. Johns place). \$10. Call (718) 230-0236 for info.
- 2 pm-4 pm: Blogging workshop.
- FRIDAY, APRIL 18**
7 pm: Original plays by Red Hook kids. Patrick Day School (71 Sullivan St., at Van Brunt Street in Red Hook). Free. Call (718) 395-3218 for info.
- SATURDAY, APRIL 19**
11:30 am: For Shabbat. Union Temple (17 Eastern Pkwy., at Plaza Street East in Prospect Heights). Free. Call (718) 638-1020 for info.
- 1 pm: Mariachi music. Brooklyn Public Library Central Branch (Grand Army Plaza at Flatbush Avenue). Free. Call (718) 230-2100 for info.
- 3 pm: Red Hook plays. See Friday, April 18.

To list your event, e-mail information to Calendar@BrooklynPaper.com.



Little Leaguers from Bay Ridge will get in on the act with their own parade this Saturday, much like their Park Slope brethren last week (above).

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ATLANTIC YARDS

NOW IT IS JUST NETS

Protesters call Bruce's honor a 'dung deal'

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Dozens of opponents of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development rallied outside the Brooklyn Museum's gala last Thursday to protest the art institute's decision to honor the controversial developer.

The protesters — some dressed in fanciful attire to mock the smartly clad gala attendees inside, others merely holding signs reading "Con Artist" — named a police pen less than 50 yards from the glass-walled Museum entrance, where 1,000 people gathered for a dinner with Ratner and Japanese artist Takashi Murakami.

"I heard about [the Ratner honor] a couple of weeks ago, and I couldn't believe it," said Clem Labine, 70, who was dressed in robber-baron style: a black bowler and black tie. "Ratner is a totally



"George Bush" was one of many protesters who greeted Museum patrons as they arrived for last Thursday's gala to honor developer Bruce Ratner.

<http://BrooklynPaper.com> More pictures and action at

divisive character, and I had to protest this decision by the museum." Labine, who is not related to the late, great Brooklyn Dodger pitcher of the same name, held a sign reading, "Brooklyn Museum Sold Out Brooklyn's Communities."

Nearby, another man held a placard that read, "Dung Deal," a cheeky reference to the Museum's 1999 controversy over its "Sensation" exhibition, which featured a painting of the Virgin Mary adorned with elephant dung.

Joining the protesters was Marilyn Gelber — a former city Department of Environmental Protection commissioner who worked with Ratner on the Metrotech of-

fice complex when she was chief of staff to former Borough President Howard Golden.

"As someone with a long history in government, there are things about this project that are upsetting," said Gelber, who lives on Dean Street in Boerum Hill. "It did not undergo a proper public review. Maybe that sounds weird and wimpy, but major land-use changes and the use of public money means going through the city's [land-use review process]."

Given Gelber's connections and long support for the Museum, she could have been inside eating tuna martini, miso fillet of beef and pineapple pillows for dessert rather than on the streets, with the other Atlantic Yards foes.

"I'm a big supporter of the Museum and have enormous affection for [Executive Director] Arnold Lehman. I was invited to be inside, but I told Arnold that given my views of Atlantic Yards, I'd rather be outside."

For his part, Ratner said he'd rather be inside, telling a Bloomberg News reporter that the protesters didn't bother him.

"One of the terrific things about this city and country is that people are allowed to express their views, and I respect that," he said. "Obviously, I don't agree with them, and the Museum doesn't agree with them."

Lehman added that Ratner was being honored for "his terrific patronage over a very long period of time."

"We're not involved in the politics that seems to be swirling around us," Lehman added.

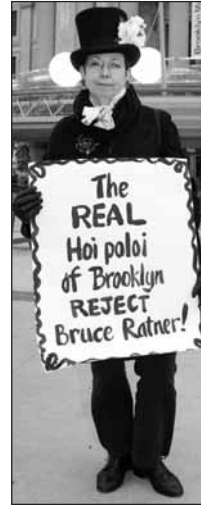
Opponents pounced on Lehman's apparent surprise that politics were "swirling around" the Museum. Indeed, those politics are quite inside the institution.

One of its board members, Joanne Munier, is the president and chief operating officer of Forest City Ratner. Another board member, Robert Rubin, is an investor in Ratner's New Jersey Nets.

In addition, the team's CEO, Brett Yorkmark; rapper Jay-Z, another Nets investor; and Barclays Capital (which paid Ratner \$400 million to its chairman its name on the publicly built arena), were members of the committee that put together the April 3 gala.

And the Brooklyn Museum can hardly feign ignorance of the controversy. The Museum hosted the January, 2007 press conference to announce the \$400-million deal with the slavery- and apartheid-linked British banking behemoth — an announcement that, like the April 3 gala, drew protesters.

"Mr. Lehman, with all due respect, when you decided to honor and celebrate Bruce Ratner in the midst of an ongoing city community fight, you've involved yourself in



Many protesters donned garb suitable for a museum gala.

"the politics that seem to be swirling around" you, [in fact] next door to you," Daniel Goldstein of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn said in a statement this week.

In addition to the symbolic fight, a number of protesters have asked the Internal Revenue Service to investigate whether the Museum has violated its own conflict of interests policy — and, therefore, committed its non-profit status — by having board members who are so closely affiliated with the Nets.

Goldstein also continued to condemn the museum on a personal level. "It's just poor judgment to honor this developer who is in the midst of a huge fight in the community that surrounds the museum," said Goldstein, whose Pacific Street home would be torn down to make way for the arena. "He's taking away people's homes. He's taking away his home."

MONEY...

Continued from page 1

Yards Report, a Web site, uncovered Ratner's need for more subsidies.

It is unclear what additional subsidies the company would seek. But it is clear that Ratner will have a fight on his hands.

"I cannot approve of more subsidies when the only thing that's certain is a stadium," said DeBlasio, who called for "a timeline for the full project, especially with respect to the affordable housing."

He also demanded to know "exactly why the additional subsidies are needed and what they would be used for."

A Ratner spokesman declined to comment for this story.

Given the apparent collapse of Atlantic Yards, Yassky called on city and state officials to renegotiate their deal with Ratner.

"Whether you think the original deal was good or bad — and I think it was a bad deal — the project that he agreed to build is not being built," Yassky said. "So we need to renegotiate."

Fifty-eight million dollars of the city and state's initial \$305-million contribution have already been given to Ratner —

money that Yassky thinks should be given back.

"They've gotten \$58 million for a project that they're not going to build," he said.

Daniel Goldstein, a spokesman for the anti-Yards group Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, echoed Yassky.

"If Ratner can't build his project — with over \$300 million in direct cash subsidies, over \$2 billion in government-backed financing, a blank city check for 'extraordinary infrastructure costs,' free land from the city, a below-market rail yard purchase price, and the windfall benefits of eminent domain condemnation — he should not be rewarded with yet more taxpayer funds," Goldstein said.



Bruce Ratner at the gala.

GEHRY...



Artist Julian Schnabel (left) pals around with his buddy Frank Gehry, the architect of Atlantic Yards.

Continued from page 1

miso-marinated cod and spicy turo with caviar. Meanwhile, hundreds of Atlantic Yards protesters heckled Museum supporters outside the Eastern Parkway edifice, condemning the Museum for honoring Ratner (see story above).

But the spirited rally did nothing to curtail the gala, which featured a decidedly un-Brooklyn crowd that included designer Marc Jacobs, Vogue editrix Anna Wintour, supermodel Eva Herzigova, tennis legend John McEnroe, Kirsten Davis from "Sex & the City," and artist Julian Schnabel.

The evening also marked the opening of artist Takashi Murakami's exhibition, but the gala centered around Ratner, whose foundation has given at least \$200,000 to the Museum in the past two years and whose executives bought many of the \$1,000 plates and encouraged friends and business associates to buy many more.

In all, the gala raised \$1.5 million for the Museum, a

spokeswoman said.

Ratner was given the Museum's Augustus Graham Medal, an award that honors a patron.

Gehry introduced his own patron — Ratner — to the gala crowd.

"Bruce and I share a love of food — and sex," Gehry said, in a rambling introduction in which he bemoaned the gala's lack of Italian, a Jewish delicacy, and, apparently, the lack of sexual activity.

Then, perhaps referring to the protesters outside, he added, "[Bruce] asked me to do a project in Brooklyn and I had no idea what I was getting into. But I loved him then and I love him even more now. When Brooklyn is finished, you'll be proud of us."

Earlier, Borough President Markowitz praised Ratner as "a boychik from Cleveland who fell in love with Brooklyn, U.S.A."

"During the most challenging times, instead of running, he invested here because he understood the promise of Brooklyn," Markowitz added, brandishing a

ceremonial proclamation. "The renaissance of Brooklyn, in so many ways, is due to you, Bruce Ratner, so I now proclaim this 'Bruce Ratner recognition and celebration day' in Brooklyn. Enjoy your dinner."

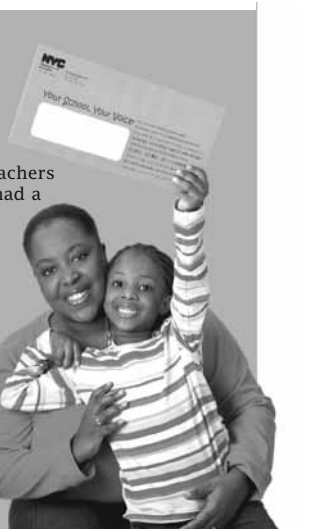
In his acceptance speech later, Ratner did not mention Atlantic Yards, but merely said that he was honored to accept an award that "represents the essence" of what he does as a developer, namely, building with "a social purpose and responsibility."

By the time he started speaking, at around 10:15 pm, there were no protesters left out front.

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Karen Rose and her daughter Mayka, a kindergartener at PS 121, the Bronx



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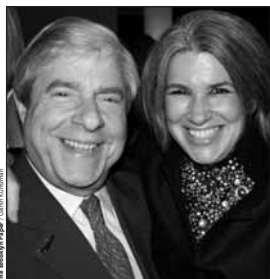
Jamie is queen of swag

The Brooklyn Paper

Bruce Ratner got the award, but Borough President Markowitz's wife got the goods.

In the waning moments of last Thursday's Brooklyn Museum gala, which honored Ratner, Jamie Markowitz scooped up eight placemats designed by Japanese artist Takashi Murakami and intended as parting gifts for the 1,000 Museum patrons in attendance.

One to a customer, not eight. "Without a doubt, the person who got the most out of [the] opening was Jamie," quipped Radar Online, which broke the story last week. The Web site claimed that the limited-edition candy-colored placemats have "fetched up to \$1,000 on eBay after similar events" and suggested that Markowitz had snatched them because she was "perhaps sensing a business opportunity."



Brooklyn's first lady, Jamie Markowitz, took too many placemats from last Thursday's gala.

And the funny thing is, nothing could be closer to the truth.

"It's a little true," Markowitz admitted to the Daily News on Sunday.

Later, her red-faced husband explained that there had been a misunderstanding and that five of the six remaining placemats — Markowitz's wife gave away two placemats before leaving the gala, a Borough Hall spokesman said — would be auctioned to raise money for the borough president's Camp Brooklyn charity.

"These were gifts for guests and there was no discussion of their value," the Beep said. "If they're really worth what the Radar blogger claims — \$1,000 each — we will make five available at this year's Camp Brooklyn fundraising event, and, if they sell, that means 10 more low-income kids can go to camp."

— Gersh Kuntzman

Pepper and Potter site to become hotel

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

A defunct auto dealership that has greeted Brooklyn drivers as they returned over the Manhattan Bridge might start greeting tourists as a hotel.

The former Pepper and Potter Buick dealership at the intersection of Flatbush Avenue Extension and Tillary Street — closed since 2003 — sold to the development company MB-Flatbush for \$10.8 million this week, according to Ingram and Hebron Realty. Early reports indicated that a Hampton Inn might rise from the lot, but the hotel chain and the development company told The Brooklyn Paper that no decision had been made.

Robert Potter, who sold his family's shuttered dealership, thinks "it would be

the best location for a hotel because it's at the entryway to the borough," he said. "It's a more dramatic entrance to Brooklyn than the Brooklyn Bridge."

At least it will be in the near future. Despite an economic downturn, Flatbush Avenue Extension, from the Manhattan Bridge to Fulton Street, remains a boom town.

Directly behind the Pepper and Potter site (pictured), the One Condo tower is almost ready to welcome its first residents. And a block away, two projects — the 38-story residential tower and the 70-story City Point office building — are rising, just a small part of an ongoing \$9-billion building spree.

To spruce up this gateway, the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership is working to add public art and planted medians.



The Pepper and Potter car dealership site has finally been sold.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN ADMISSIONS 2008-2009

Pre-Kindergarten directories and public school applications for the 2008-2009 school year are now available at public elementary schools, community school district offices and borough enrollment office

You can also find the application at:
<http://schools.nychoicesenrollment.com>

The deadline to submit public school pre-Kindergarten applications by mail is Friday, April 18, 2008.

For more information, call 311 or visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/PreK>

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McCain walks the walk in a Bay Ridge drop-off

By Ben Muessig

Sen. John McCain made a campaign stop in Bay Ridge on Thursday — but residents of the borough's Republican stronghold can't figure out why he stopped where he did.

The likely GOP presidential nominee — with Mayor Bloomberg at his side — stopped by Windows We Are, a glass supply company at Fifth Avenue and 91st Street to speak to reporters and local Republicans including state Sen. Marty Golden, about the sub-prime mortgage crisis, the rising cost of oil and the loss of American jobs.

Later, he presided over a roundtable of small business owners.

The hastily scheduled event surprised even the Windows We Are owners, who weren't informed that the Arizona senator — who is unlikely to win New York State, but could win the presidency — until two days ago.

"I think they wanted to show a good example of what a small Bay Ridge family-owned business is," said Scott Turnbull, manager of the 35-year-old shop.

Of course, there were other theories. "People are politically active in Bay Ridge, so it's no surprise that he's here," said Tania Lazala, who gawked at the media gawking at McCain.



Bay Ridge's Windows We Are glass supply company hosted likely Republican presidential nominee John McCain (above, center). Later, McCain campaigned with Mayor Bloomberg on the streets of the borough's Republican stronghold.

"But we can't figure out why he'd speak at a window store and not at the school across the street."

Bloomberg introduced McCain, stating that if it weren't

for the campaign tricks that McCain taught him, he never would have won the nation's second most-important job.

"I got elected because of you," said Bloomberg, who has

not endorsed a candidate, though he recently appeared with Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, the likely Democratic nominee, in Manhattan.

The small-business roundtable was moderated by former Deputy Mayor Rudy Wainwright, former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, now a Republican National Committee leader who had talked about as a McCain vice presidential pick.

McCain took questions from six local entrepreneurs, including David Mason, co-owner of Damascus Bakery on the corner of Gold and Plymouth streets in DUMBO.

"It's good he's talking about working issues, especially here," said Bruce Ford of Carroll Gardens, who helped install lighting at the speech.

After the speech and discussion, McCain did some retail campaigning at a pizza parlor on Fourth Avenue and 91st Street, grabbing a slice of white pizza with pepperoni.

"It's great he's here," said Vito Bruno, who ate a slice before McCain arrived. "Chating with people is how you get votes."

That was true for Windows We Are Manager Turnbull. He said that before McCain's appearance, he was undecided. "I'm a McCain supporter now," he said.

COPS

Continued from page 4

Henry streets on March 30, snatching two Apple laptops while the victim was at work — sometime between 3 pm and midnight, cops said.

A Wythe Avenue apartment was burglarized on April 4 while the victim slept between 3 and 4 am. Once inside the apartment, between Metropolitan Avenue and North Third Street, thieves snatched a black Apple laptop and a Sony digital camera.

— Ben Muessig

88th Precinct Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

Concrete Jungle
Two young men and women roughed up and robbed a man on the corner of Washington and Greene avenues on March 31.

Bandits struck the 36-year-old victim in the face and knocked him to the ground at 5:15 pm, then stole his cellphone.

Police arrested one suspect, a 19-year-old man, and recovered the victim's missing glasses.

Men down!
Shots rang out in the early morning of April 6, dropping

two men to the cold pavement. Details are still murky, but police responded to reports of gunfire at 3:10 am between Flushing and Park avenues and found two victims.

Both men were taken to Bellevue Hospital, where they were in stable condition, except for their lips, which were sealed about the shooting. — Mike McLaughlin

76th Precinct Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill

She's got legs
An employee at a retailer on Smith Street couldn't stop a woman from stealing a pair of

leggings on April 4 because she had some heavy leg.

The worker confronted the woman outside of the shop, between Butler and Douglass streets at 5:50 pm. In her companion's waistband was a gun, which the man displayed before telling the worker, "Then I think about it."

Hail of gunfire
A man fired a salvo of bullets at a woman on Baltic Street on April 2. The 42-year-old gangster fired erratically, hitting the victim twice in her leg at 12:45 am. She was taken from the scene, between Hoyt and Bond streets, to Lutheran Medical Center. — Mike McLaughlin

I paid \$3 for this coffee!

Finally, a place to get a \$3 cup of coffee on Fourth Avenue!

We all know that the long-run-down speedway between Atlantic Avenue and 16th Street has been changing rapidly, but I thought it would take a few more years — and a few more 12-story condo towers — before I would be paying Manhattan prices to drink a cup of joe next to an auto-body shop and a vacant lot.

Of course, this isn't just any old cup of coffee. This is coffee freshly brewed, one cup at a time, in a machine that costs \$11,000.

Yes, the coffee maker at the Root Hill Café — across from the auto-body shop on Fourth Avenue — costs more than the auto being repaired at the auto-body shop on Fourth Avenue.

"Did you taste the blueberries?" Maria Bowen, co-owner asked me after I had downed my first cup of Ethiopia Natural Yirgacheffe Biloya.

Blueberries? No. When I want blueberries, I go to the Park Slope Food Co-op, work a double shift (be-

**THE BROOKLYN
ANGLE** By Gersh Kuntzman

cause I'm always suspended, wouldn't you know?) and buy a package of Peruvian shade-grown organic blueberries — which are so good, they taste like strawberries!

But I digress (which is the point of buying a \$3 cup of coffee, I suppose). The excitement of the grand prize for the small coffee is that Root Hill is one of few places in Brooklyn that has the \$11,000 Clover machine — and the last place in the borough to get one before Starbucks bought the company and will no longer sell the machines to anyone but Starbucks.

That's one of the reasons why the Clover gets prime space at Root Hill. Not only is it front and center on the counter, but Bowen and her partners Michelle and Andrew Giancola have installed a mirror above the machine so you can watch it go through its multi-phase brewing process with-

out having to crane your neck. Here's what happens: You place your order (and your spouse divides you for spending \$3 on a cup of coffee); the barista grinds the precise amount of beans (30 grams for a Yirgacheffe Biloya); then she pours the ground coffee onto a round disc at the center of the Clover; next, it silently descends into the machine while the coffee is brewing (38 seconds is, I'm told, ideal for Yirgacheffe Biloya); the barista gives it a few gentle whisks; and, finally, your coffee is served (and your spouse is now your ex-spouse).

The result? No blueberries for me, but a great cup of coffee — richer, thicker and creamier (even black) than normal coffee.

It's about as far from \$11 diner coffee as, well, Fourth Avenue is from Prospect Park West.

Make it a habit.

Root Hill Café (262 Fourth Ave., at Carroll Street) is open until 7 pm on weeknights.



Our man enjoys a cup of Yirgacheffe brewed in a machine that costs more than a car.

CHECKIN' IN WITH...

Windsor Terrace writer Daniel Radosh is a good Jew — so in a sense, he was the perfect person to write "Rapture Ready: Adventures in the Parallel Universe of Christian Pop Culture" (Scribner). Being a liberal by nature gave him the open mind to really

explore whether Christian rock music, for example, was any worse than the stuff we New Yorkers hear on the radio every day. And being a noted journalist — Radosh has had stints at The Week and written for The New Yorker, the New York Times, Esquire and GQ — gave him the objectivity to explore the world beyond the Old Testament. On the eve of the April 8 publication date and an April 17 reading at the Park Slope Barnes & Noble, Radosh checked in with Editor Gersh Kuntzman.

Q: You weren't just a fish out of water by being Jewish, but also being a New Yorker. At one point, in fact, a supposedly good Christian here said that you're from New York and says, I hope joking, "Get a rope!" Did being such an outsider to Christian culture make it harder or easier to write the book?

A: I was an outsider, but people were very open. American culture does get into their bubble, so they were all intrigued to meet a New Yorker. They felt like they had seen New Yorkers on "Seinfeld" and wanted to see if it was real.

Q: For me, your book was like a Dale Earnhardt moment. Remember when he died in 2001, the New York Times was roundly criticized for basically ignoring the death of this NASCAR legend. But his death was a huge thing to millions of Americans. Your book was the same way for me — this notion that something is happening outside our mainstream that has far more consumers than we're even aware of. I don't even know what the "Left Behind" books are, for instance.

A: In the book, I used the terms "mainstream culture" and "Christian culture," but I did not intentionally because in a lot of ways, Christian culture is mainstream. The "Left Behind" books sold 65 million and "The Purpose-Driven Life" sold 25 million copies. This is a world that's extremely important to a vast number of Americans, yet it is off so many people's radar.

Q: Some Christian culture is quite hip like "Modest is hottest" T-shirts, but some is quite regressive and scary like the Passion play in which you performed. That was one of my favorite parts of the book. Did you really try to have your character save Jesus's life?

A: They gave me a set of robes (I had to bring my own sandals) and I found myself in the angry mob calling for Jesus's crucifixion, a scene that has been as justified as a justification for the hate and oppression of my people for centuries. It was tough to take, so while everyone was demanding crucifixion, I broke with the crowd of Jews and said, "Maybe a hogging is enough." I did my best. I hung my head in shame. I really hammed it up. Of course, no one in the audience could hear me, because all the dialogue is pre-recorded. But I felt I had sent a message!

Q: Like that Passion play you said you found other elements of Christian culture repugnant.

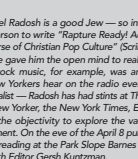
A: The "Left Behind" books are a good example. They take a modern scenario and lay on a radical right-wing agenda — yet make it sound fun and exciting for Christians. It's very divisive for the country, and, worse, it's a distortion of what many Christians believe. The vast majority believes abortion is fundamentally wrong, but most are not obsessed with this issue. They don't think it's the core of their identity. That is what is changing in the next generation and the reason that we on the outside should be paying attention. If you notice what kids listen to at festivals or the magazines young Christians are reading, you'll find that many are opposed to Jesus being hijacked by conservatives for a political agenda. The book at the Religious Right and that, "That's not me."

Q: Is that why you recently defended the position, "Christian rock doesn't suck" at a debate? How could you do that?

A: The better bands are more open minded. The problem is that the gatekeepers at the radio stations, who tend to be more conservative, only play songs with high "Jesus per minute" counts. But non-Christians should give this stuff a chance. It would strengthen that of Christian culture and help the conservative fundamentalist strain to wither away.

Q: You hope.
A: We live in hope. Didn't you read the book?

Daniel Radosh Christian culture chronicler



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You hope.

We live in hope. Didn't you read the book?

Daniel Radosh will be reading from his book, "Rapture Ready: Adventures in the Parallel Universe of Christian Pop Culture," on Thursday, April 17 at the Barnes and Noble (267 Seventh Ave., at Sixth Street in Park Slope), 7:30 pm. Call (718) 832-9066 for info.

Evicted artists return from 'matzoh brawl'

By Caroline Jackson
for The Brooklyn Paper

After three months of sleeping on their friends' couches, the evicted artists of 475 Kent Ave. are finally back to doing what they do best: putting on an art show.

Roughly two dozen of the more than 200 artists and residents who were kicked out of the illegal loft building in January are participating in a group show, "475 Kent Lives," which opened last night in Queens.

"I don't have a lot of stuff [to show] because I haven't been able to work for three months," said artist Deborah Masters. "None of us have been in the building, so we haven't been making art."

Making art has been a distant concern compared to crashing on her art mattress at a dozen friends' houses while she looked for a better living situation (she eventually convinced her acupunctureist to let her stay at his Fort Greene apartment while he moved in with his girlfriend).

Her vagabond life began on Jan. 20, when the building's tenants were evicted by the FDNY because an illegal matzoh factory was operating in the basement. Closer inspection revealed faulty sprinklers and other violations.

The artists have still not been allowed back into the building, though more than 4,000 people have signed petitions in support of the residents.

One of those supporters was a curator at the Queens Museum, who offered Masters the opportunity to put on an exhibition in that distant borough. Excited, Masters and fellow 475 Kent resident Lisa Mordhurst, who has also spent months crashing on floors, solicited new work from their fellow refugees.

That's not as easy when most of the would-be participants have been studio-less.

"I didn't know what I could do because of the evacuation," said Simon Lee. Fortunately, Lee had a piece "that was very much about 475," so he contributed it.

Lee said the months of sleeplessness on friends' couches without privacy, a kitchen or a place to work has taken its toll.

"I think people are beginning to break down," he said. Indeed, some residents have moved out of the building permanently, but Masters says the core group is "still 200 strong."

"We still believe in it," she said.

"475 Kent Lives" Queens Museum of Art at Bulova Corporate Center (75-20 Astoria Blvd., between 77th Street and the BOE in Astoria), April 9-13. Free. Call (718) 592-9700 for info.



Deborah Masters is one of the evicted artists of 475 Kent Ave, who are putting on an art show.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Movers (Licensed)

HOME IMPROVEMENT ON PAGE 16

ON PAGE 16

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'Amber' alert! Arts group sues city

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Three entrepreneurs who invested millions to turn a derelict Fort Greene building into a music hall and art space — only to be told that the building would be demolished to make way for a city-sponsored art space — have sued the city for \$10 million.

In a lawsuit filed last Tuesday in Brooklyn Supreme Court, Amber Art and Music Space founders Todd Triplett, Shaun Jenkins and Philip McKenzie say that the city's plan to condemn the property at the corner

of Fulton Street and Ashland Place resulted in their financial ruin.

The plaintiffs had signed a 10-year lease for the three-story building in 2005, drawn to the location because it was within the BAM Cultural District, a zone that the city is hoping to turn into Brooklyn's own Lincoln Center.

The men, who live in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill and have extensive experience in business and arts administration, then spent a year and a half renovating the three-story space into a music hall, recording studio, art gallery and arts non-profit. They got a liquor license.



They'd even booked acts through the New Year.

Then, on Aug. 21, the three men got a letter from Jack Hammer, the Brooklyn director of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, informing them of the agency's intention to seize the building to make way for a new home for the Manhattan-based DanSpace and 187 residential units, half of them affordable.

As a result, Amber Art Space never opened.

"We were four weeks away from completion, and we got this letter," said Triplett

at the time. "The city is — k—ing us."

A spokesman for HPD had no comment on the lawsuit.

But according to the city's "determination" to take the land, the acquisitions will "result in an area of Downtown Brooklyn that is presently blighted and underutilized being transformed into an area that will become a commercial center while maintaining the character of the area's residential."

The project acquisitions will also displace Track Data Corp, a 20-year-old financial information firm on Rockwell Place.

Clones have fun with \$

By Ricky Barlin
for The Brooklyn Paper

The current recession (or whatever you want to call it) has been a humiliating and embarrassing time for the so-called Masters of the Universe — so the time has come for more humiliation and more embarrassment, thanks to the Brooklyn Cyclones.

No, money managers won't be tarred and feathered, but on July 23, the Cyclones will mark the economic downturn by poking fun at the financial community.

For instance, accountants who spend most of their time balancing books will be invited on field to race while balancing books on their heads.

And Bear Stearns vets will participate in an on-field limbo game (the winner will need to go even lower than the company's stock — if that's possible).

There'll even be a race of bull and bear mascots (the smart money is on the bear).

All humiliation aside, this is a promotion that would even please that ultimate bean-counter, Ebenezer Scrooge — tickets to the game against the Vermont Lake Monsters are just \$5 each for groups of 20 or more.

As such, Cyclones General Manager Steve Cohen said the goal was to ease their pain.

"It's a tough time for money managers, so we're going to create a night that will bring smiles to their faces," said Cohen.

"We want them to know that we're rooting for them just as hard as we do our favorite players, if not more!"

FILTH

Continued from page 1

Gowanus Canal is a day at the beach (not a clean beach, of course, but you get the idea).

Sure, 300 million gallons of waste annually spill into the canal from overflowing sewers, and last year, the canal suffered Spitzer-like humiliation after gonorrhea was discovered in water samples.

But unlike the creek, the canal has some salubrious things working for it.

First, it's served by a flushing tunnel that pushes through "fresh" water from the Buttermilk Channel, keeping things from going stagnant.

Second, the city Department of Environmental Protection is inching forward on a \$210-million cleanup that will make the canal safe for humans to boat on and for fish to breed in.

There's nothing comparable brewing for Newtown Creek, despite that \$625,454 state grant. And advocates say their Rodney Dangerfield of waterways needs more respect — now.

"The scale is much more severe at Newtown [that in the Gowanus Canal]," said Basil Seggos, chief investigator at Riverkeeper. "There are more toxic fields there."

In perhaps more tangible terms, the Gowanus's water poses less of a direct threat to humans if they're exposed to it.

"I've heard stories about people falling in or going in and they lived to tell the tale," said Bob Zackerman, from the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation, he adding, "I wouldn't recommend it."

Anyone who falls in the creek might not be so lucky. Indeed, a man whose car fell into the muck this week died before he could be pulled out.

"It's one of the most-polluted bodies of water on the East Coast," Katie Schmidt of the Newtown Creek Alliance told The New York Times after the Tuesday accident. "That doesn't mean, however, so my understanding, that swimming in the water would cause death immediately. It would cause illness certainly — and even very serious illness."

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